THE TIMES

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'I used to thank God that I had two arms and two legs. Now I'm grateful that I've got one of each'

BLOWN APART IN A MINEFIELD: CHRIS MOON'S COMPELLING STORY, p16,17



Dunwoody does it! Jumping into history

Page 23

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

Minister's forceful intervention helps Kosovans to reach British haven

Short takes on border guards over refugees

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY AT BRAZDE REFUGEE CAMP

MOBBED by bewildered refugees, Clare Short confronted Macedonian officials yesterday and urged them to stop obstructing families escaping from Kosovo.

The International Development Secretary demanded that 11 busloads of refugees, who had spent 12 hours stranded on a roadside near the frontier, be allowed into a relief camp built by British soldiers and then helped the frightened and frail to leave the first bus. Two had died while stranded the previous night.

"We have to quickly move the thousands trapped in those horrific conditions on the border before more die," she said.

Macedonian officials showed little inclination to open their border, despite condemnation by aid organisations and the attempts of the short-tempered British minister. She was inspecting the still-empty refugee camp at Brazde when two Macedonian ministers arrived by chance and blamed Nato for the delay in filling the 200 tents.

Ms Short forcibly disputed that claim and persuaded Aleksander Dimitrov, the Foreign Minister, to contact his Prime Minister by mobile telephone to order the first refugees into the camp, built on a private airfield.

Even then a zealous policeman in sunglasses tried to turn the buses away. The faces pressed against the window despaired at the prospect of being moved again.

British troops looked on with obvious frustration, unable to intervene. Then Ms Short and her entourage — including Brigadier Tim Cross, who is running Nato's emergency relief operation — appeared.

Together they led weary families to the lines of green tents and to troops waiting to hand out food and water. For some it was their first meal in 48 hours.

Ms Short's actions on the ground contrasted with a sense of confusion in London over how many refugees might come to Britain. Downing Street and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said on Sunday that "some thousands" would be welcomed, but Tony Blair gave a warning yesterday against any premature action that would send the wrong message to President Milosevic.

The Prime Minister said that, although he was still committed to accepting several thousand refugees if necessary, the "ultimate objective" was to repatriate them to Kosovo.



12,235...12,236...12,237

The best place for them to be cared for was in Macedonia and Albania. "I emphasise again — and it's very important, or else Milosevic gets the wrong message here — these people need to go back to Kosovo where they live, where they want to be, and we will make sure that happens."

Ms Short told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday: "All this talk of getting people out of the region is, in my view, irrelevant.

"I'm here in Macedonia and there are thousands and thousands of people on the other side of the border, not being fed, babies being born, people becoming sick. And if everyone is in a tizz in London talking about getting people out, it's irrelevant to the crisis we have here."

When told that Mr Straw had announced that Britain would now accept thousands of refugees, she said: "I don't think this is helpful."

Officials said that the Government's position was not inconsistent. However, it is clear that Nato's announcement on Sunday of the numbers that some European countries would be prepared to take caught ministers off guard.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that, whatever protestations were made of any refugee evacuations being temporary, some would inevitably settle in Britain and other Nato countries. Lyndall Sachs said: "Some of the refugees just won't be able to go home, it will be impossible. You can't make people go home if they do not have a home to go to."

At Brazde yesterday, when asked how many refugees Britain would take, Ms Short replied: "Don't know, don't care. That's up to London to decide. Let's get people out of that squalor."

The Nato soldiers at the camp were caught by surprise when the refugees turned up, instead of going, as they should have done, to another camp two miles away. Ms Short told them to forget the rules and just "dig in and help".

British troops agreed to fence off the camp last night, as the Macedonian authorities insisted, but are refusing to guard the compound to stop refugees escaping. Riot police immediately appeared at the gates, though too late to stop some who begged for lifts on the roadside to reach relatives in the capital, Skopje.

Mr Dimitrov was unrepentant at his country's behaviour towards the refugees. "Tell me any country that would just throw open its borders if 200,000 people showed up," he said.

SIMON WALKER



Clare Short leading Kosovan refugees into the relief camp built by British troops at Brazde

BALKANS WAR DAY 13

■ Mahia Islama was on the run from the Serbs for three days when she gave birth to her seventh child on a pile of old clothes in a snow-filled forest. There were no blankets, no water, no medicine. There was an audience of 200.
Janine di Giovanni reports on page 3

■ Not satisfied with using young men as human shields against Nato attacks, nor with the summary execution of children or the burning of homes, Serbian border guards have added another atrocity to their comrades' crimes: rape.
Sam Kiley reports from Albania on page 2

■ A political rift in Belgrade has led to confusion over the number of casualties caused by the Nato bombings. While the media want to fan the flames of patriotism, hardline political leaders want to keep the outside world in the dark.
Eve-Ann Prentice reports on page 5

■ Clear weather over Kosovo led to an intensification of Nato airstrikes yesterday, but also a sharp increase in the number of Yugoslav anti-aircraft attacks. But while Nato is ready to take a more aggressive approach to bombing Yugoslav forces in the province, they are having difficulty finding them.
Michael Evans reports on pages 6 and 8

■ Madeleine Albright fled Nazism as a child, then Stalinism. It is little wonder that she is making a personal crusade of ending ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia.
Ben Macintyre reports on page 9

Disease stalks the muddy riverbank

Each night, the numbers of the dead and dying increase, reports Daniel McGrory

RED CROSS teams are concerned that epidemics are taking hold among the 40,000 refugees stranded on a riverbank beyond the reach of doctors.

Macedonian border police are refusing medical staff permission to go to the sick, so the victims have to be dragged up a muddy embankment at the Blace crossing point, where one tent is serving as a field hospital.

Stephen Tomlin, vice president of the international medical group, said that in recent days cases of hepatitis, pneumonia and tuberculosis had been discovered in the camp. "When you have a large number of people and sanitation is poor, there is a risk of diarrhoea and dysentery. With children it is measles. We must get sanitation to these people before disease takes a grip."

Aid workers are also afraid that as the temperatures rise after a week of freezing rain, cholera may break out. A Red Cross spokesman said: "Every day makes the likelihood of epidemics more likely. That is why these people need to be moved fast and clean water and sanitation brought in immediately." Nato medics, with their army field hospitals, are not allowed near the border to help.

With no sanitation, no shelter and no running water, the numbers of dead and dying increase daily. Most of the 30 refugees who have died in the past 72 hours were elderly people suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. "After what they have been through, their bodies could take no more," the spokesman said. Other victims have been women going into labour. Two died in childbirth last night, as did their babies.

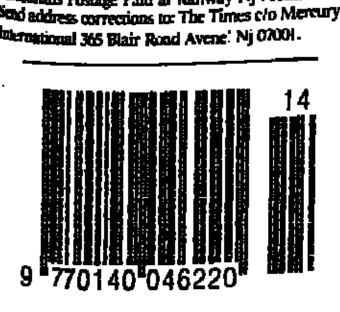
The medical care the Red Cross can provide at its tent is rudimentary. One doctor said: "We can't perform emergency surgery and for serious illness we have to rely on the Macedonians to take them to hospital in Skopje, 20 kilometres away.

"Those with conditions like asthma cannot get the medical help they need, so things that are treatable become acute and can be fatal."

Dr Stuttaford, page 2

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Couple saved from sea after helicopter crash

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A PREGNANT woman and her art dealer husband survived nearly two hours in icy waters after their helicopter packed with works of art crashed off Dorset yesterday.

The coastguard said that Paul and Lisa Burgess, from Knotty Green, Buckinghamshire, were about half an hour from death when they were found, surrounded by their wrecked paintings.

Mrs Burgess, 27, "was so traumatised that her hands had to be prised free from the grabrail of the helicopter," a rescuer said.

The alarm was raised just before midday when Mr Burgess, 37, who is also believed to work for a computer software firm, radioed: "We are lost in dense fog and all I can see is cliffs." Seconds later the Bell Jetranger crashed into the sea about two miles from Lyme Bay.

They were picked up by a fishing boat and transferred to the Lyme Regis inshore lifeboat. But when they reached the shore, they refused to get into another helicopter to be flown to hospital, preferring to go by road.

Neither was seriously injured — Mr Burgess broke his left arm and Mrs Burgess had cuts and bruises to her face — and they were discharged last night.



Paul Burgess is helped ashore by lifeboatman David Street

Photographs, page 12

Sanctions against Libya are lifted

BY JAMES BONE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LIBYA faces a compensation bill of hundreds of millions of pounds if the two men handed over yesterday to face trial for the Lockerbie disaster are convicted.

The surrender of Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah led to the immediate suspension of the UN sanctions against Libya which have been in force since 1992.

The UN will review the sanctions issue in three months, by which time the Security Council should have recieved a report from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, on whether Libya has renounced terrorism and agreed to pay compensation. Although insurance claims have been met, no formal compensation has been paid to the familes of the 270 people who died in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Scotland.

UN officials said that Libya had made clear in private negotiations that it was ready to compensate relatives if the two suspects were convicted by the Scottish court convened in The Netherlands. However, a clear commitment is needed from Tripoli to pay whatever level of damages is assessed.

Mr Annan said he was confident that the two suspects would receive a fair trial before the transplanted Scottish court.

He said the transfer of the suspects to The Netherlands had gone smoothly and that the Security Council had acted immediately to suspend the sanctions on arms sales, air travel, imports of oil technology and diplomatic representation.

The decision means that Libyans will once again be able to fly freely into the country without having to travel overland from Egypt or Tunisia, and can acquire spare parts for its oil industry.

Suspects arrive, page 10

BALKANS WAR: TERROR TACTICS

Serbs make rape a weapon of war

Groups of silent women speak volumes, writes **Sam Kiley** from Kukes



A Madcedonian soldier stands guard yesterday before several thousand refugees in a hastily-erected reception centre at the border crossing point of Blace. The women keep silent about the campaign of rape

NOT satisfied with using young men as human shields against Nato and Kosovo Liberation Army attacks, nor with summary execution of children and the burning of homes to accelerate the exodus of Kosovo Albanians, Serbian border guards have taken to adding one more atrocity — rape.

Their victims are reluctant to talk about what happens in the border post at Monice, through which more than 200,000 people have been herded over the last few weeks. But the faraway stares in their tearful eyes, their torn clothing and the despair of the families of the victims speak volumes.

Just as the extremists of Bosnia's Serb Republic pursued a campaign against Muslims which included the forced impregnation of many Bosnian women, so the border guards of Monice clearly hope to father scores of Muslim children carrying Serb blood.

According to human rights groups and investigators from the War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague, and the victims themselves, Kosovo Albanian women are being picked out at the border as they wait with their families to cross into Albania, taken to a building not far away and violated.

"There have been so many credible reports of this sort of thing that we are convinced it is part of a systematic campaign of sexual abuse. The whole level of atrocities being committed in Kosovo has overwhelmed us. We are going to have to bring in extra investigators," said a member of the tribunal team in Kukes, the nearest town to the border crossing.

The Serbs' method is simple. They select the women they fancy tormenting as they approach the final crossing point with their families, who are ordered to keep travelling into Albania.

They are then taken away, weeping and begging for their lives. Hours, perhaps a day passes for the families, and then those who survive the ordeal are sent on their way with a casual wave.

At Monice their families keep a vigil standing in silent huddles by the metal barrier. Reluctant to admit what is happening to their daughters, these members of a society who view rape as the ultimate shame for a woman, say: "We were separated, and praying that the Serbs will let them live."

When the young women are reunited, there is no celebration that they have survived. They fall in silence into their parents' arms. Hiding their faces they rejoin the huge throng of miserable humanity — again in silence.

Overwhelmed by the logistics of coping with an influx of refugees which is expected to reach 250,000 in the next day or so, and climb to half a million or more, the Albanian authorities and the few aid agencies which have reacted to the Kosovo catastrophe have been unable to offer any kind of help to the rape victims.

"There is simply nothing we can do but hope that the families of the victims are strong enough and supportive enough of these young women. But if any are pregnant as a result, they face a miserable future of possible rejection by their families, or of raising a child conceived in hatred. That must be the worst thing anyone can inflict upon a woman," said a British aid worker in Kukes. There have been reports of rape and the use of Kosovo Albanian women as sex slaves since the beginning of the forced exodus which came close on the heels of the start of Nato's air bombardments of Yugoslavia. But the latest revelations appear to carry more weight with human rights groups who stand alongside the families of abducted women and teenage girls, helpless to do anything about what they are certain is going on behind the bulletproof glass of the Monice crossing.

> 'We are convinced it is a systematic campaign of sexual abuse'

Young men have been spared rape, but their life expectancy behind Serb lines can be calculated in minutes. Hague investigators are looking into a number of credible reports that up to 500 men were marched into a field close to where the KLA has been fighting a rearguard action against the Serbs on the Albanian border.

Once in the field their resistance was allegedly broken down by being forced to stand in freezing rain for several hours. They were then driven like cattle back into a barn and ordered to dress in rags provided for them.

Then, at gunpoint, they were ordered to stand in front of Serb trenches while the Serb artillery fired mortars and heavier weapons at KLA positions, confident that they would not be the first victims if fire was returned.

So far, The Hague said, there had been only a handful of survivors from this latest alleged atrocity.

In Kukes, the refugees said that they were now pinning their hopes on Nato and the dim expectation of ground forces to save those still left in Kosovo.

Risolta Unico, a student from Dajkovica who crossed into Albania in her slippers, had been spared the rapists because at Qafae Prushit the border is manned by professional Yugoslav soldiers who maintain a keen-eyed watch on their Albanian counterparts.

"They are burning our houses and killing the men. In the town there have been many rapes, but no one will speak of it. We need to be saved before there is nothing left for Nato to worry about. Please tell the world that we are worth it, we are human beings not animals to be slaughtered," she cried.

When told that the US had ordered 24 Apache attack helicopters to Albania she broke into a broad smile. "First there will be helicopters, then there will be soldiers. Nato will not let us down. If they do not send troops, then what was the point of the bombing?"

Terror, just like cold and hunger, can weaken the body's defences



THE refugees from Kosovo, crowded together in wet, cold and insanitary circumstances so dire that when the Macedonian troops visit them they are issued with gas masks, will suffer diseases spread by poor sanitation and contaminated water.

The authorities will be expecting gastroenteritis from Salmonella, Shigella, pathogenic E.coli and giardiasis and Hepatitis A. Other infections spread by droplet infection, coughs and sneezes, which would in healthier situations cause no more than a cough or cold, will when caught by someone whose immune system has been undermined by fear, terror, cold and starvation, result in pneumonia.

Many people harbour opportunistic organisms which remain quiescent in any, or many, of the body's systems but will if the patient's resistance to infection is lowered, cause serious troubles with respiration, the gastro-intestinal, urinary tract or skin. As well as this ever-present threat of death and disease from opportunistic infections, there are now, apparently, three main causes of anxiety. There is an outbreak of Hepatitis A, bacterial pneumonia is rampant and there is an epidemic of measles.

Ex-servicemen who fought on the other side of the Adriatic in Italy in the 1939-45 war will not be surprised by reports of Hepatitis A. It was a constant scourge throughout the Italian campaign, despite the British Army's keen attention to latrine digging. It is doubtful if refugees could be similarly disciplined.

The virus causing Hepatitis A is spread by faeces, or very occasionally, contact with contaminated blood. The disease has a two to six-week incubation period and so it is unlikely that the present cases have been caught after the refugees reached Albania or Macedonia. They must have been infected en route. The initial symptoms are similar to flu, but are associated with an almost total loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and a severe headache and a feeling of absolute wretchedness. After three to 10 days, the patient usually starts to feel better but then begins to become, in many cases, jaundiced. The majority of patients with Hepatitis A, however ill they feel at the time, will make a full recovery.

The outcome in bacterial pneumonia depends on the age and resistance of the patient — older people and young children are especially vulnerable — the bacteria involved and the availability of appropriate antibiotics.

Measles epidemics are always likely when large numbers of unvaccinated children are mixed together. The seriousness of the illness is partly dependent on the quality of the diet in the weeks before the virus was caught. In this epidemic, the immune response of the children will have also been reduced by the disruption of their normal lifestyle, the cold and the fear. Medical care is essential for those who are badly affected with measles, without it the inevitable, but usually small, mortality and morbidity associated with the infection will become unacceptably high.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Refugees forced into Serbia after Nato blocks escape route

FROM REUTERS IN ROZAJE, MONTENEGRO

REFUGEES fleeing to Montenegro from Mitrovica, Kosovo's third largest city, have been forced into Serbia after Nato bombers destroyed a key road bridge in Kosovo, officials said yesterday.

Muslims and ethnic Albanians from Mitrovica, about 15 miles north-west of Pristina, began to arrive at Montenegro's eastern border late last week and the flow increased at the weekend.

But the numbers were reduced to a trickle yesterda after Nato bombers had destroyed the bridge, Kosovo, blocking their escape route.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said she believed that they had been diverted to the Serb town of Novi Pazar, about 15 miles further northwest. From there, she expected them to travel south into Montenegro, which forms part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It has distanced itself from Yugoslav President Milosevic and has opened its borders to the refugees.

About 35,700 people fleeing Kosovo have sought shelter in Montenegro over the past nine days, although some have moved on to Albania.

Mitrovica is a large industrial town with mineral reserves.

Several hundred refugees from the city crossed the Montenegrin frontier on Saturday and about 2,300 on Sunday, the UNHCR said.

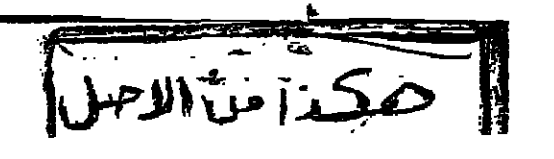
Some of the refugees who reached Rozaje at the weekend said that Serb forces had evicted them from their homes, then taken them by bus to the border.

In Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital, an anti-Nato rock concert was staged for the second day running. It drew several thousand spectators, and another concert is scheduled for today.

□ France will not accept large numbers of Kosovans, arguing that they should be sent home, Hubert Vedrine, the Foreign Minister, said.



An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo carries his father across the border to the Albanian village of Morina



Record of mass migrations offers scant prospect of return



Gaza and the Palestinians offer a grim reminder of the instability that can emerge in camps near a refugee homeland, writes Michael Binyon

REFUGEES rarely go back. In all the waves of ethnic cleansing, forced deportations and mass migrations of the past century, very few displaced groups have been able to reclaim their homeland.

From the camps of Nazi slave labourers to the Palestinian camps in the Middle East, from Vietnam to Rwanda, Bosnia to Kurdistan, those who are forced into exile often find the doors barred even when it is safe to return. The prospects for all the Kosovo refugees to go back to their villages do not look good: the facts on the ground change too quickly.

The wave of human misery that accompanies every war always flows to the nearest shelter. But often this proves inadequate, inhospitable or insecure. There is always the fear that the enemy is still too near, or that the new host country will find the refugees a burden and push them home again. Many who flee believe that they will go home within weeks. But as months stretch into years, they begin to look further afield.

This is the nub of the argument over the Kosovans. Can they remain on the borders of their former homeland in huge numbers without destabilising their host countries? Will they be safe? Will they lose their neighbours, family connections and chance of return if they are moved away?

The dilemma has been at the heart of the Palestinian tragedy. Driven out in 1948, most wanted to stay in temporary camps; neither they, nor the surrounding Arab countries would accept resettlement elsewhere. But as dreams of a return became ever more distant, the camps became a breeding ground for frustration and terrorism. The result is Gaza — an option that appeals to no one.

Most countries accept that population transfers cannot be reversed. The forced movement of all Greeks from Turkey and Turks from Greece took place amid fighting in 1922, and apart from ancestral memories there is no chance that Greeks will regain their old homes in Smyrna — modern Izmir. The partition of India at independence led to one of the world's bloodiest population transfers, which is also irrevocable. Even in Cyprus, current peace plans are based on the premise that refugees on each side will receive compensation rather than their old homes back.

Those who are forcibly evicted do sometimes return. Stalin deported the Crimean Tartars en masse during the Second World War. It took a generation before any were allowed back; but not all found a warm welcome returning to what was now the Ukraine.

Those who flee persecution sometimes go home when things calm down: Greek Communists who fled in their thousands on defeat in the civil war spent 30 unhappy years in the Soviet Union before the Greek Government allowed them back. Some of the thousands of Hungarians who fled in 1956 went back on the fall of Communism — but most had made a new life in Britain, Canada and elsewhere.

It is harder to go back if the circumstances prompting the flight remain unchanged. This is especially true of economic migrants. The Vietnamese boatpeople were looking for a better life. They had no wish to return, even from detention camps in Hong Kong, and had to be forced to board flights back. Cubans who fled President Castro also claimed they were fleeing Communism: but if he died tomorrow, the Cuban population in Miami would still remain sizeable.

The only time an exodus has been reversed is when a haven has been set up to take them. Most Rwandan Tutsis went back after the genocidal Government was overthrown — though their Hutu killers remained in neighbouring Zaire. The Iraqi Kurds who fled in the wake of the failed uprising against President Saddam Hussein after the Gulf War arrived in Turkey and did not leave until the United Nations set up a "safe haven" in the Kurdish no-fly zone. But many left again, when internecine fighting broke out.

Hundreds of thousands of Bosnians left during the Bosnian War. Thousands have returned but most want to stay in the European Union, and it has taken forcible evictions by the German authorities in particular to push them home in any numbers. The same will happen, aid agencies fear, if the Kosovans are airlifted to the West.

British prepare to offer sanctuary

Disused hospital and army bases may be homes for refugees, report Joanna Bale and Tim Hames

DISUSED military camps, hospitals and care homes are being earmarked for the thousands of ethnic Albanians who may be offered temporary sanctuary in Britain. Aid workers, who say airlifting them from the Balkans should be a last resort, are keen to avoid isolating them further from their communities by dispersing them too thinly around the country.

The Home Office said yesterday that it was still finalising a list of suitable properties where refugees could be adequately cared for. A spokesman added: "We are looking at empty military establishments, hospitals and local authority hostels and homes. The details have yet to be finalised because we are still talking to various government departments as well as local authorities."

Kent County Council said that it was examining the possibility of housing up to 400 refugees in a variety of accommodation, including a disused hospital in Dartford. Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, the council's leader, said that the Government should clarify how long the refugees would be staying. He said: "We are concerned that the refugees will be traumatised and will want to know how long they can stay or when they can go home. The Government is saying that it will be a temporary measure until they can return to Kosovo, but it would be helpful to know what that means. Surely they cannot return until an independent state has been established and supported by Nato. We are hoping for some clarification."

Disused army bases such as Rollestone near Shrewton, Wiltshire, which has housed prisoners and refugees in the past, are thought to be amongs those being considered by the Home Office. Peter Chalke, leader of Wiltshire County Council, said: "Rollestone is probably a likely contender, along with a couple of others used for army summer exercises such as Knook, near Warminster, and Westdown, near Shrewton. We have a responsibility to do something to help and we will be looking at whatever other accommodation there is available."

Other possible sites include a former RAF nuclear bomber base at Finningley, near Doncaster, and Middleton Towers, a former Pontins holiday camp at Heysham, Lancashire. A spokeswoman for the Refugee Council said that, in the event of mass airlifts of refugees to Britain, it hoped that families and communities were kept together to avoid isolating people. She explained: "We don't yet know if they will be coming in large numbers, but it is important to keep family groups together. When the Government offered accommodation to Bosnians in 1992 they were kept together in groups, which is the model we would be looking at."

Jack Straw will attend a meeting of European Union interior ministers tomorrow to discuss how refugees might be airlifted out of the region, an operation fraught with logistical problems.

☐ The Serb owner of a village shop and post office has closed the premises in protest at the Nato bombing. Villagers in Iffley, near Oxford, have been surprised by a sign pinned up by Nada Bibic, saying: "I don't serve today or any day to come until bombing on Serbia stops. I am sorry for all my good customers here in village. But you have to understand that my country is occupied. My parents and relatives suffer and all my people in Serbia. Just know that Kosovo is just the excuse to invade our country. Nato and all other countries who join them will not succeed because the Serbs will fight until the last."

David Penwarden, vice-chairman of Friends of Iffley, the residents' association, said: "The bombing of Serbia was the last straw for Mrs Bibic, who has struggled to keep the shop open. Her parents have had to leave their home in Belgrade and she is very upset. One or two people in the village have objected, but I have told them to grin and bear it."

Mrs Bibic was unavailable for comment yesterday, but her shop window, cluttered with newspaper clippings and home-made posters, was a silent testament to her feelings. One poster declared "Nato = Hitler". The collage was punctuated by a note from the Post Office announcing that their sub-station was closed due to unforeseen circumstances. The hand-written sign said: "Post Office Counters Ltd are not associated with this protest against Nato."

ROB HOWARTH



A helper collects blankets for Kosovo in the village of Bressingham, in Norfolk. Meanwhile, the Home Office is studying lists of temporary accommodation

Seconds to make choice of new life in exile

By Adrian Lee

KELIMA BAUTOVIC was in a tent at a refugee centre, sheltering from a storm, when she was forced to decide her family's future in a few seconds. "Do you want to go to England tomorrow morning?" she was asked.

Homeless and eight months pregnant, she became one of 5,000 Bosnians who were involved in the last great influx of refugees to Britain, in the autumn of 1992. "It was not a difficult choice," she said yesterday. "When you have lost everything you don't refuse an offer of safety."

An arduous coach journey followed, before she and her daughter Ena, then six, arrived in Luton, Bedfordshire, with a group of about 100 other Bosnians. They were barely able to speak a word of English and lived at first in a church hall. Ten days later, Mrs Bautovic gave birth to her second daughter, Amina, as she waited for news of her husband, Enver, who was being held in a Serbian camp.

"We were happy to be in England — the people in Luton gave as much as they could — but it was difficult. The biggest problem was the language barrier."

Following the release of her husband, the family was reunited. A son, Sead, was born two years ago, and although the Bautovics are still waiting to be granted full refugee status, husband and wife have jobs and a house. Their children attend both English and Bosnian schools.

Despite their settled life in England, where Mr Bautovic is a lorry driver, the couple would like to return to their home in northwest Bosnia.

According to the Government, many of the 5,000 Bosnians who arrived in 1992 received full asylum two years ago. More than 50 British towns and cities gave homes to Bosnians — large communities exist in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Cambridge. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that his own constituency, Blackburn, had given sanctuary to "quite a number" of refugees.

Only a handful remain. Musa Haldarvi, an aid worker who helped arrange houses for 13 Bosnian families in Blackburn, seven years ago, said: "Some stayed for a year, then either went home or moved to other parts of the country. They were a small group and they found it quite difficult to settle here."

One Bosnian mother, who asked not to be named, said yesterday that she found life in Blackburn lonely and hoped to move to London. "I am happy here but there are no jobs and I feel isolated. I don't have any contact with other people from Bosnia." A refugee from eastern Bosnia, she was given the choice of England or Germany.

"I had read about England and wanted to learn the language," she said. "The people here are civilised. I am free to do what I like — if I want to wear a miniskirt or a long skirt it is up to me. I don't want to return to Bosnia — my home is occupied and I believe I would be killed."

Belgrade listens again for German bombers

Tom Walker reports from the city whose elderly residents remember the Luftwaffe's first attack 58 years ago today

AS THEY prepared for another sleepless night in Belgrade yesterday, the city's more senior residents shed quiet tears as they cast their minds back 58 years and a tragedy heralded by the Luftwaffe's bombers.

Olga Petrovic, 74, remembered her old house in the southern suburb of Zvezdara. She was lulled to sleep by a beautiful Balkan spring evening, of the sort that warmed the city last night.

"I was woken by a terrible noise and ran out on to the balcony. The sky was coloured black by a cloud of iron birds. I saw people running in the street, and then I tried to find my mother and my father. He was sleeping, and she was in the market," the old lady recalled. "That previous evening was the last time I saw my mother alive."

Today is the anniversary of the Luftwaffe's first attack on Belgrade, and the fact that German planes are again involved in bombing raids on Yugoslavia is not lost on the generation that lived through that first raid by Hitler.

What embitters and confuses them this time round is the role played by former allies such as Britain and France. America, too, they are disappointed in, but then pensioners like Olga remember the clumsy liberation raids of American bombers in 1944 that killed almost as many Belgraders as the Germans did on that morning in 1941.

"We ran towards a neighbour's cellar, and then I heard a heavy explosion," Olga continued. "I turned round to see that it was our house. Our neighbour's house was also badly damaged, and everything was in flames. The explosions were all around us and the bombing seemed to last an eternity. When everything had passed we went out, and I couldn't recognise my birthplace. People were trying to find one another in ruins. They were screaming and calling for help. I saw a woman dying in the street and blood everywhere around her. There was blood everywhere and I dreamed that scene for a long time afterwards."

Experiencing the third bombing raids of her life no longer worried her, she said: if she had to die in her flat, she would.

Almost 3,000 Belgraders died alongside Olga's mother on April 6, with thousands more wounded. Some 40 per cent of the city's buildings were destroyed, among them the national library containing treasures such as the Prizren Gospel and other medieval manuscripts, many of them from monasteries in Kosovo.

Out at the Yugoslav Aeronautical Museum at Belgrade's Surcin airport, Cedomir Janjic was more worried by the prospect of more Nato missiles. Several buildings around the airfield have already been destroyed, and the museum director fears that his priceless collection of aircraft, a powerful testimony to Yugoslavia's bonds with the wartime allies, could be blown to pieces by a misplaced Tomahawk.

Yesterday Mr Janjic was attempting to move his collection — from a rickety biplane of 1909 through Hurricanes and Spitfires to MiG jet fighters — towards the centre of the space-age spherical museum building, in an attempt to limit any blast damage from the acres of glass windows all around.

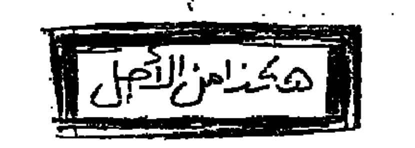
He was only six years old in 1941, but has become one of the most learned sources on the German raids. He explained how the Luftwaffe arrived at about 7.30am. Germany having declared war with the Yugoslav Government after its planes had already taken off from bases in Hungary and Romania. They were joined later in the day by squadrons from Bulgaria: in all the Germans had 485 bombers and 160 fighters.

Against them the Yugoslavs mustered just 60 fighters, many of which were destroyed on the ground. One of the early heroes of the air force, 102nd Squadron Commander Milos Zanic, was shot down just after taking off from an airfield that now lies under the concrete apartment blocks of New Belgrade. He was the first Yugoslav pilot to die that day: another ten were to follow later, and a total of 137 were downed during the war.

"We managed to shoot down 40 German planes with our artillery," said Mr Janjic, who today will lay a wreath at a memorial for the pilots lost. "Then other German planes that were partly damaged limped home to airstrips in Sarajevo and Zagreb and elsewhere — just like the Nato planes of today."

As he passed a Spitfire and a rare variant of the Hurricane, Mr Janjic paused, and made us listen. It was still early in the afternoon, but the sound of Nato aircraft could be heard high overhead. "Do the British understand the irony of all this?" he asked. "You are destroying your own history, too."

Mr Janjic found some fading photographs, one with German pilots gathered around a bomb with "Happy Easter" painted on it. Similar tactics are being employed today, with one missile that recently landed in central Serbia bearing the inscription: "From Albanians, to Serbia. It's payback time!"



Hidden forces frustrate RAF as low cloud lifts

Michael Evans and **Tom Walker** report on Nato's latest raids, including one on the Yugoslav air defence HQ

CLEAR weather over Kosovo led to an intensification of Nato airstrikes yesterday, but also a sharp increase in the number of Yugoslav surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft attacks. No alliance aircraft were reported hit.

The improving weather provided the first chance to search for Yugoslav army units in Kosovo. However, as the gloom lifted at Nato headquarters, many of the bomber pilots, including the increasingly frustrated RAF Harrier GR7 crews, returned with their Paveway bombs still attached to the wings.

They and other Nato aircraft had failed to find Yugoslav units operating out in the open. Knowing that the clear skies over Kosovo would encourage Nato to come looking for them, most of the troops involved in "ethnic cleansing" had hidden in deserted buildings, woods and camouflaged positions.

Nato said the air sorties had helped to stem the ethnic cleansing, although a video was released showing Yugoslav armoured units clearing all the inhabitants from the village of Glodane "with customary brutality".

RAF Tornado GRIs were used for the first time, flying on an operation from RAF Bruggen in Germany to Kosovo and back, a sortie that lasted seven hours. General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said six Tornados, with three VC10 air refuelling tankers, attacked a number of bridges and tunnels. Initial reports, he said, indicated that "our objectives were all achieved".

Air Commodore David Wilby, Nato military spokesman in Brussels, said: "The weather has only just cleared to give us a little more chance of hitting them hard and we are now getting our tactics right, making sure we have got all our forces in there. We have ramped up the number of sorties we are doing and we are taking the fight to them very hard."

Among the biggest targets hit in the previous 24 hours was a Yugoslav air defence headquarters in Belgrade and two army barracks in the town of Vranje to the south. Yugoslav state television, RTS, showed images of damaged buildings close to the barracks, including houses, a cigarette factory and a bus station. It claimed that 11 Nato missiles had been fired on the targets in Vranje.

Following the announcement from Washington that it was sending 24 Apache attack helicopters to Albania — a move formally approved by Nato ambassadors yesterday — William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, denied that it would lead to the future deployment of ground troops to Kosovo.

He told CNN it merely represented an intensification and expansion of the air campaign. "It has been an air campaign from the beginning. It's going to be a continuation of the air campaign," he said, adding that the airstrikes would last for weeks.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told a press conference at the Ministry of Defence: "After all the atrocities of the past two weeks, no decent person can now deny that Nato is right to fight the evil of President Milosevic."

He added: "The victims herded in their thousands in the past few days on to overcrowded trains are not people fleeing from the regime, but people being forcibly evicted by that regime. What we are witnessing is mass deportation on a scale Europe has not seen since the days of Stalin and Hitler."

Mr Cook said that the airstrikes would continue against the Yugoslav forces "until Kosovar Albanian refugees were allowed to return to their homes under the protection of an international force".

In Belgrade, it was reported that at least four civilians were killed in Nato raids on Saturday night and Sunday morning. A 52-year-old security guard was said to have died in the attack that woke all of Belgrade on Sunday morning, on the New Belgrade heating plant. Predrag Vasic, director general of Beoelektrana, told journalists that the plant was a civilian facility that provided heat for hundreds of thousands of people.

Two workers were reported killed and four injured in the attack on the power supply unit of Pancevo's oil refinery, near Belgrade, early on Sunday morning. The power supply plant was destroyed, disabling the refinery for the foreseeable future and increasing the likelihood of serious fuel shortages.

Six civilians were reported to have died as the fuel dump at Bogutovac, near the town of Kraljevo in central Serbia, blew up on Sunday morning. Those dead were said to include a warehouse keeper and two workers from a nearby train station, which was also damaged in the attack.

Smoke rising from the damaged Yugoslav air defence building after the Nato strike



Firefighters clearing up at the bombed air defence headquarters in Belgrade yesterday. Nato said that, with better weather, it was getting its tactics right

Missiles hit diesel supplies and wipe out Serb tobacco works

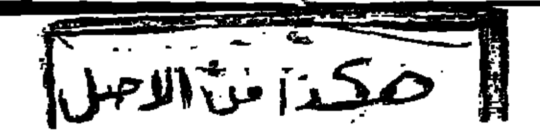
FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

NATO made its most comprehensive airstrikes against Yugoslavia on Sunday night and yesterday morning, hitting a variety of targets right across the country. Once again many of the facilities damaged had civilian uses.

The Yugoslav Army's daily press handout carried a map of Serbia that looked as if it had been in a paintball fight. Nato's missiles and bombs were reported as far north as Sombor, in Vojvodina, and attack sites then spread south through Belgrade, the central Serbian industial belt and on into Kosovo itself. The most significant strike was made against the headquarters of the Yugoslav Air Force in Zemun, on the outskirts of Belgrade. Missile damage was reported from Nis, the central city famous for its paratroop units, where many civilian buildings, including schools and university departments, were said to have been partly destroyed.

The press handout focused on the harm being done to the civilian population, and steered clear as usual of mentioning any military facilities that might have been near some of the strike areas.

In Nis, for example, the only devastation mentioned was that inflicted on the city's metal processing and tobacco industries. Serbs were horrified to find that the factory that has given them the "Classic" cigarette brand is no more. Again oil and fuel dumps were struck, and there are fears that farmers will be un-able to plant their spring crops for lack of diesel. The army also highlighted damage done to the monastery at Gracanica in Kosovo.




SIMON WALKER

Aslani Xhaviti, a smallholder whose family has farmed land along the Macedonia frontier for generations. "If we all run away, we just leave our land to the Serbs," he says.

Farm minefields sow death

Frontier smallholders see their way of life becoming a casualty of war, writes **Daniel McGrory** in Blace

THE front line here is a hilltop meadow scattered with wild primroses where 57-year-old Aslani Xhaviti grazes his cattle.

Near the stone bridge his grandfather built across the River Lepelec, Serb soldiers have planted landmines beneath the neat lines of his peach and apple trees.

An armoured personnel carrier is parked in Aslani's orchard, the early-morning sun glinting off a cannon pointing at his whitewalled villa.

Bored with sitting around, now the town of Djeneral Janckovic has been emptied of its Albanian population, Serb conscripts amuse themselves by encouraging packs of stray dogs to chase cattle into the minefield. A dozen beasts lay dead across the meadow.

Aslani crouches under a hedgerow and stares down at the land his family has owned for six generations but which lies across the present borders of Macedonia and Kosovo.

"Borders never mattered to any of us before," he said, slowly rolling a cigarette as a Serb soldier watched him through binoculars.

"We are all farmers and share our land and water. I can't go to my animals now, so one by one they are being killed. When they have finished with the horses and cows, will they come for me?"

What is immediately noticeable in the narrow streets of Blace on the Macedonian side of the border, is that no women or children are to be seen. Aslani explains they were all moved away the day Nato airstrikes began on the hills beyond. The children of Blace were Macedonia's first refugees in this war, but in the chaos spilling out from Kosovo no one has noticed.

The men stand out of sight of the Serb guns, chain-smoking and debating whether they too should leave.


LINKS

http://www.janes.com/defence/defset.html Jane's Defence Weekly report on the war in Yugoslavia
http://www.nato.int The Nato website
http://www.unhcr.ch/news/media/kosovo.htm Latest news on refugees

Aslani says they should stay. "If we all run away, we just leave our land to the Serbs."

Overhead comes a distant rumble as Nato jets close over Kosovo again. Three days ago he watched a neighbouring village burn and now there is a steady stream of refugees moving down the mountain track that marks one edge of his farm.

He offered the first of them bread and tea, but within an hour there were 100, then 1,000, and now more and Aslani cannot cope.

His father was killed by Serbs when he was two years old, but he points to the part of Djeneral Janckovic where his wife comes from. He moves his finger left to show where his daughter got married and where his oldest friend used to live. "He has gone now. Everyone I know there has."

Two hundred yards away, three Serb soldiers pick their way carefully across the meadow, past their minefield and down to the main road that runs to the border post. For the past 48 hours that road has been choked with cars. The line stretches to the horizon and beyond and those in the queue estimate that about 2,000 vehicles are stuck behind them in the mountains waiting to escape.

Two armoured personnel carriers are parked beside a cement factory in sight of the frightened families. Two huge red, white and blue Yugoslav flags fly over the four lanes of apparently unmoving traffic.

Vehicles that have run out of petrol or broken down are pushed to the side of the road, and their occupants told to complete their journey on foot.

Previously those on either side of the border did not need passports to cross back and forth, but now the Macedonian authorities have started making it as difficult as possible for the new arrivals to pass. At night Aslani says he can hear gunfire. He points to the roof of the cement factory where a sniper can be seen, idly running his gunsight along the line of cars.

"We can never pretend the two communities were close, but I could never see a day where it would end like this. Can there be worse hatred anywhere in our world today?"

BALKANS SUMMARY

Russia sends aid to Yugoslavia

Moscow: Russia has launched its promised operation to supply Yugoslavia with humanitarian aid, Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, announced following a telephone conversation with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, whose country holds the six-month presidency of the European Union. Shipments of medical supplies, clothes and foodstuffs are being sent by lorry, but it is not certain who the recipients will be.

Mr Primakov said that the political process had to be instantly revived to try to bring Belgrade and the Kosovo Albanians closer to a settlement: "The most important thing now is to end Nato's military campaign. I want to repeat that the barbaric attacks by Nato are a tragic mistake." Gennadi Seleznyov, the State Duma speaker, and Nikolai Ryzhkov, a leftist former Soviet Prime Minister, are due to visit Belgrade today. *(AFP)*

Challenge from Arkan

Bucharest: The Serbian warlord known as Arkan has vowed that his paramilitary Tigers will fight any Nato ground forces "to the last man". Speaking in an interview with a Romanian daily, *Jurnalul National*, he said: "It is when we fight on the ground that we will see who is the strongest. We are waiting for them." But he insisted that his Tigers — notorious for "ethnic cleansing" in Croatia and Bosnia — had not been sent into Kosovo. *(AFP)*

Moderate's peace call

Pristina, Kosovo: Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovo Albanian moderate leader, met Yuri Kotov, the Russian Ambassador to Belgrade, and repeated calls for Nato to halt bombings and for Belgrade to be "more co-operative with the international community". He added: "The bombing should be stopped and a monitoring should be put in." He said that he was awaiting clearance to go to Macedonia to work for peace. *(AFP)*

Nato TV reaches Serbs

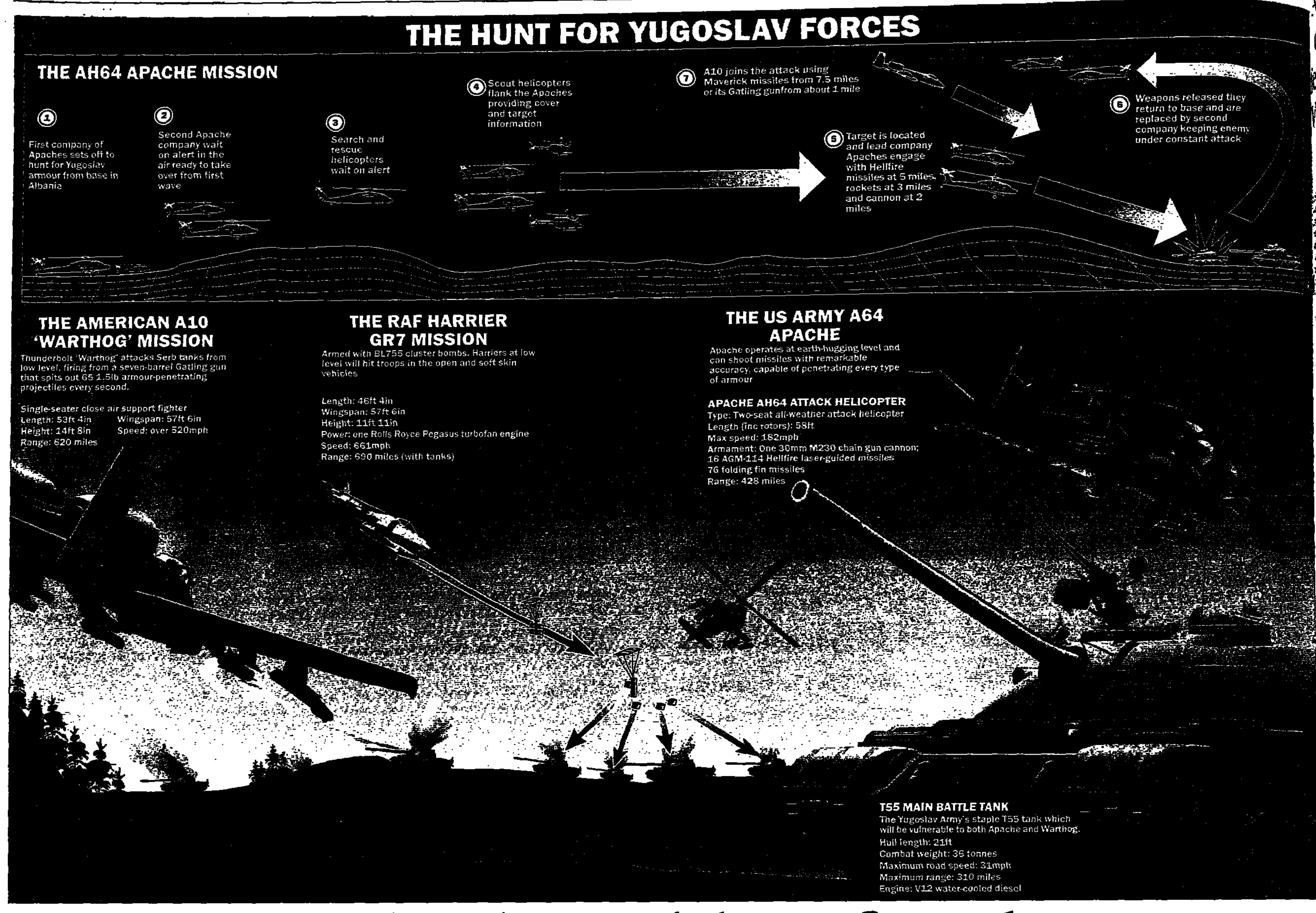
Belgrade: Blurred UHF television transmissions giving Nato's viewpoint on Kosovo were picked up by residents. Showing maps and a Nato insignia, a Serbian commentary said: "If only you knew what 'ethnic cleansing' was going on down there, you would be stunned. Milosevic is trying to show he is more powerful than he is. Is this the behaviour of a professional army?" Nato has confirmed that it is broadcasting into Yugoslavia. *(Reuters)*

Paris terrorism alert

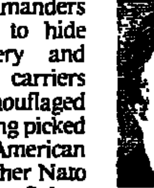
Paris: French police have stepped up security in Paris and other big cities to counter the threat of Serb terrorism (Adam Sage writes). Intelligence service agents believe President Milosevic may order a military unit to mount terrorist bombing campaigns in an attempt to destabilise public opinion. They also fear isolated acts by Serb extremists in France. French police thwarted one such plot during the war in Bosnia.

Horseman of apocalypse

Moscow: Andrei Andronnikov, an actor and director, dressed as an ancient Russian warrior on horseback to ride past the US Ambassador's residence and fire an arrow carrying a message that the Kosovo conflict would end on American territory, police said. The message added: "Those who act against Slavs by the sword



Searching high and low for the enemy



The tanks in Kosovo are taking cover as Nato tries to target the armoured forces which carry out ethnic cleansing. Nato's air power could soon be harder to avoid, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO is about to move more aggressively into the low-level bombing phase of its campaign, marshalling Apache attack helicopters and aircraft armed with cluster bombs to hit the Yugoslav forces in Kosovo — if they can find them.

The Pentagon has promised that the deployment of the Apaches, which have a 430-mile range and can loiter in the target area before firing their missiles, will provide Nato with a capability "to get up close and personal to the Milosevic armour".

RAF Harriers and other allied aircraft set out on Sunday to hunt for Yugoslav troops and armour carrying out "ethnic cleansing" operations in Kosovo, but returned to their bases without dropping a single bomb. General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, admitted: "They did not engage any targets. Indeed, none was found."

The problem is that the Yugoslav army commanders have been ordered to hide their tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers in woods and camouflaged positions to avoid being picked off by the awesome American A10 Warthogs and other Nato aircraft capable of low-flying, anti-tank missions.

As General Guthrie pointed out, however, the mere presence of these aircraft over Kosovo was acting as a deterrent, although some ethnic cleansing was still going on yesterday.

"This type of operation deters and suppresses Serb action and helps to achieve our aim of curbing the barbaric repression we have been hearing about," he said.

If the tactical bombing campaign is to enter a different level of intensity, Nato's anti-tank killing machine will have to score some major successes for the momentum of President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing operation to be blunted and finally reversed. Yugoslavia's killing fields in Kosovo now have to become Nato's killing fields.

For the first time in nearly two weeks of Operation Allied Force, the issue of military casualties is likely to move to the forefront if Nato aircraft begin to locate and destroy Yugoslav armoured units on a significant scale. Although Belgrade admitted yesterday that there had been a number of dead and wounded following Nato attacks on two army barracks in the town of Vranje, so far this has not been a conflict about casualties.

Nato has suffered none, apart from the physical battering meted out to the three captured American soldiers; and although Belgrade has claimed a number of civilian dead and wounded, there have been no reports of heavy casualties among the Yugoslav military.

While this may have more to do with Mr Milosevic's attempt to keep the Yugoslav population behind him by giving the impression that his nation's forces are immune from Nato's strikepower, an all-out attack by alliance aircraft on troops in Kosovo is likely to change the image of the war far more dramatically than the clinical destruction of bridges, fuel depots and heating plants.

The problem for General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, is that it will take time for the new firepower to become operational. The 24 US AH64 Apaches, each armed with eight Hellfire anti-tank rockets, will be a deadly addition to the strike force already in theatre. But it could take more than a week for them to be packed up at their base at Illesheim in Germany, flown aboard cargo planes to Tirana, the capital of Albania, and reassembled for operations.

Nevertheless, while the A10s, RAF Harriers, armed with cluster bombs, and B1B bombers, also with cluster munitions, take the battle to the ethnic cleansing battlefield in Kosovo over the next seven days, the announcement about the deployment of the formidable Apaches could add to the psychological stress which at least some of the Yugoslav troops must now be feeling as they hide in the woods to avoid Nato's tank-busting aircraft.

The latest Apaches can detect 128 potential targets in 30 seconds, select 16 and begin launching Hellfire missiles which are capable of destroying any known armoured vehicle from five miles. In the Gulf War, they operated in combination with other aircraft, such as the A10, firing Maverick missiles from about seven miles and the awesome Gatling "chain gun" from just over a mile.

The two pilots of an Apache use electronic systems to search for their targets in all weathers and all battlefield conditions.

Apaches can also film a target area with a TV sensor, while concealed behind cover, and this played a significant role in the Gulf War in 1991 and is currently helping to keep the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, based at Tuzla in the north.

The structure of the Apache is designed to withstand hits from high-explosive rounds of up to 23mm calibre. Of greatest concern, however, will be the Yugoslav forces' portable, shoulder-launched, surface-to-air missiles.

The Apache can avoid the long-range systems by flying at low altitude, its radar signature hidden in the ground "clutter". But a single Yugoslav soldier with a man-pack Sam missile will be more difficult to avoid.

The 24 Apaches, and 2,600 American support troops, are to be part of what was yesterday called a "deep strike" package to be based in Albania. The other ingredient will be 18 US Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) which will have the ability to strike at targets all over Kosovo. Armed with the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), it has a range of more than 100 miles.

The combination of Apache and MLRS across the border in Albania will add a new firepower dimension to Nato's campaign, but it also expands the territory of the war, drawing in Albania and making it vulnerable to any Yugoslav attacks.

Several villages in the north of Albania were hit by Yugoslav shells earlier in the campaign. Now, the proposed positioning of such potent American weapons on its soil will make it imperative for the alliance to defend Albania for the length of the Nato campaign, and beyond.

Hopes pinned to plane no one wanted

Nato's fabled tank-buster was almost left on the drawing board, **Ian Brodie** writes in Washington

JUST as they did in the Gulf War, military commanders have gratefully turned to the A10 Warthog as the only close ground support plane that can attack tanks, artillery and troops in Kosovo.

Ironically, the funny-looking A10 — ungainly, stubby and bulky — is the aircraft the US Air Force tried to kill. The production line was halted 13 years ago and by now all the A10s were supposed to be in retirement or farmed out to part-time National Guard units.

As it is, they were preparing to go into action today. Military sources said that in their initial foray the A10s would be hitting Serb tanks, yet again proving their worth at close range over much faster, high-flying fighter jets.

In the Gulf War, 174 A10s knocked out 1,200 of the 1,700 Iraqi tanks destroyed from the air and smashed 1,000 of the 1,200 artillery pieces. They also shot down two helicopters, went after Scud missile launchers, blew up bridges and roads and carried out search-and-rescue operations.

They could take a lot of punishment. There were nearly 400 shrapnel holes from an Iraqi ground-to-air missile in an A10 flown by Colonel David Sawyer of the USAF. Both his engines and the tail were shredded, but he made it home.

Others limped back to base with part of a wing shot off, a hydraulic line dangling and the fuselage in holes. "Any other plane would have taken a dive with that kind of damage," said a Pentagon official. Five A10s were shot down, all at every low altitudes, the same number of F16s that were lost while flying much higher.

The A10 is not fast, sleek or sexy, but the punch it packs is formidable. Its seven-barrel, 30mm Gatling gun can fire 70 armour-piercing bullets per second.

Some Iraqi tanks looked unscathed apart from a small puncture. A look inside, however, showed the destruction wrought by the fiery explosion from one A10 round. The A10 can also accurately deliver up to 16,000lb of laser-guided missiles and other bombs from racks slung under its wings and fuselage.

Flying at 300mph and at times below 1,000ft, the A10 is the most precise weapon in Nato's air arsenal.

The lone pilot has a titanium metal "bathtub" beneath the cockpit to protect him from ground fire. There are duplicate flight controls in case one system is knocked out by enemy fire. The A10 is quiet, sounding more like a vacuum cleaner than a plane, with the result that troops do not hear it until it is almost on top of them.

The bubble canopy on the cockpit gives the pilot all-round vision. The A10 is also highly manoeuvrable, with an ability to turn sharply on one wing almost perpendicularly. Its official designation is Thunderbolt II, but everyone uses its nickname Warthog, out of mockery and affection.

The A10's difficult birth in the 1970s was a classic of Pentagon infighting. Air force officers saw their way to promotion through advanced combat jets. No one wanted to be known for their work on close air support. Eventually the army decided to build its own support plane, finally forcing the air force to act.

The A10's small but devoted band of supporters took dramatic steps to prove their baby's value as a tank-buster. With Israeli help, they brought together Soviet tanks captured in the Middle East wars, amassing 500 in California. Then they filmed A10s shooting them up. In 550 passes, they knocked out 350 tanks, four times the number predicted.

Even so, the A10 was kept alive only by the demands of Joseph Addabbo, a powerful congressman from Long Island where the A10 was built. When he died in 1986, the air force stopped the programme in its tracks.

Today, however, the A10 is the only fighter with a guaranteed long-term future in the US Air Force. All the others have a phase-out date for when newer fighters are built.



The A10 Warthog was used as the scourge of Iraqi tanks during the Gulf War

Clouds roll away and Harriers go hunting

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN GIOIA DEL COLLE

RAF HARRIER pilots have taken off in pursuit of Yugoslav mobile targets to bomb after the skies cleared to allow them to fly daylight operations without hindrance from bad weather.

Some flyers from No.1 Fighter Squadron waved from their cockpits at reporters watching on the edge of the runway at the Gioia del Colle base in southern Italy as six Harrier GR7s laden with bombs and missiles left in the bright sunshine that RAF planners had been awaiting for a week.

It was the first time that a daylight mission by the Harriers was not aborted because of weather conditions since the squadron began operations against Serb targets, an RAF spokesman Group Captain Ian Travers Smith said.

Once they were well into their sorties, pilots encountered a new kind of frustration when they learnt there were no suitable mobile targets to attack and they returned to base without dropping their bombs and without crossing into Yugoslav territory.

It was not disclosed what kind of mobile targets the Harriers were seeking but there was speculation it had been hoped to use them to bomb some of the Serb troops or armour that had been surrounding villages in Kosovo and then driving out or killing civilian inhabitants.

"Their prime target today would have been mobile targets," the spokesman said. "During the period they were airborne no such opportunities presented themselves, so the Harriers returned with their bombs."

But the mission marked a "new phase" for the Harrier pilots, since clear- weather daylight operations mean the pilots can see the ground but the enemy can also see them," the spokesman said.

The tension at the base was almost tangible after the Harrier pilots began taking off at 12.20pm, the high-pitched whine of their engines turning into a roar.

Afterwards ground crew wearing bush hats and head phones rode around the fields on bicycle or nervously revved up their tow Jeeps until the aircraft began reappearing 90 minutes later and the pilots, again waving reassuringly or giving the thumbs-up sign as they touched down, were all safely landed and accounted for.

The Harriers arrived back in pairs; one carried bombs and the other, whose task was to designate targets by laser, did not.

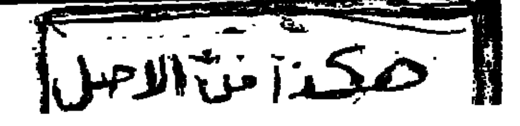
The pilots were then whisked off by bus to the squadron operations room to give brief mission reports that would be sent up the chain of command to strike command.

Then they were scheduled to spend up to three or four hours debriefing and analysing their flying with their operational commander.

Although no mobile targets were hit that time, their sorties were valuable experience, including another test of the strain of preparing to cross the border into enemy territory.

"The best moment is when you come back to this side of the border," Group Captain Travers Smith said. "It doesn't matter how long it takes to go out, but it always happens too quickly — each hour seems like a minute."

The determination of the pilots in the squadron to strike at the Serbs was evident from the doors of two portable latrines that had been erected near the Harrier hangars. One had been decorated with a label marked Slobodan while the other was designated for militia leader Arkan.



Armed chiefs fear new Vietnam

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

US military chiefs warned President Clinton before the air campaign began that by itself it probably would not work and that they had serious reservations about becoming involved in Kosovo at all.

According to *The Washington Post*, General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, led other senior commanders in questioning the basis for action in Kosovo. They are said to remain unconvinced that the air offensive will achieve its goal. But they are also extremely doubtful that ground troops should be introduced.

General Shelton and the heads of the services are acutely anxious that the US should not become embroiled in another Vietnam. Before airstrikes began, they challenged the "domino theory" outlined by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, which maintained that losing Kosovo would destabilise the whole region. A similar argument was used over Vietnam.

Now they are unhappy about the escalation of the conflict, which they blame on bad weather and the need for Nato consensus on how to wage war. Such incremental increases in involvement were also characteristic of the Vietnam conflict.

The commanders had preferred that tougher non-military measures be given a chance to bite, including stringent economic sanctions.

Hawkish Albright driven by family history

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

DAVID DYSON



Madeleine Albright's critics say that her experiences as a victim of European conflicts have led her to see the Kosovo campaign as a crusade

THE US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, knows about "ethnic cleansing": as a child she fled first Nazism and then Stalinism, as an adult she learned that her Jewish grandparents had perished in the Holocaust, and she is now pursuing a war in Kosovo as if on a personal crusade.

Ms Albright has long been seen as the most sharp-beaked of hawks within the US Administration, and it was largely her persistence that convinced President Clinton of the need for a bombing campaign, overriding the warnings of intelligence sources and the misgivings of senior military officials.

In Mr Clinton's own words: "She pushed and she pushed." But as the US and Nato enter the third week of bombardment with more military hardware pouring into the region, there are some who fear Ms Albright's own experiences and her feelings about her past, rather than considerations of diplomacy, may have pushed the alliance into a Balkans nightmare.

"Her personal history has taken over in Kosovo," one former associate told the US columnist Arianna Huffington. President Milosevic — former communist hardman, nationalist bigot and ethnic cleanser — is an ogre tailor-made for Ms Albright, 62, whose own childhood and family fell victim to Europe's racial and ethnic animosities.

Ms Albright is one of the few diplomats addressing the humanitarian crisis at Kosovo's borders who knows what the life of a refugee is like. "We came to America after being driven twice from our home in Czechoslovakia, first by Hitler and then by Stalin," she said at her nomination ceremony.

The US Administration has consistently couched the Kosovo conflict in terms of genocide, comparing the actions of Mr Milosevic to those of Hitler. That language may be traced directly to the childhood experiences of the woman born Maria Jana Korbel.

Born in Prague in 1937, the daughter of Josef Korbel, a prominent Czech diplomat, she fled Czechoslovakia with her family when Hitler invaded in 1938, and spent the rest of the war in Kensington and then Walton-on-Thames. One of her earliest memories is of sitting under a steel table as bombs fell on London, and she makes no secret of the fact that, while most Americans look to Vietnam for an understanding of war, her focus is on an earlier conflict ignited by European dictatorship, aggression and ethnic hatred.

"My mindset is Munich," she is fond of saying, for the memory of Neville Chamberlain's appeasement and its consequences for Czechoslovakia remain the defining component in her diplomatic philosophy. After the war, her father was appointed ambassador to Marshal Tito's Yugoslavia, where Madeleine was tutored by a governess to prevent her having contact with the loathed Communists.

In 1948, the family was again forced to flee Prague, this time when the Communists took over and stripped her father of his citizenship, to settle permanently in the US.

Ms Albright's tumultuous early life and hawkish inclinations place her in direct opposition to the so-called Powell doctrine, advocated by General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which holds that military action needs an overriding threat to US interests, a clear goal and a knockout punch. Not surprisingly, Ms Albright has always regarded the Balkans as her special preserve. Last week she broadcast an appeal to the Serbs in Serbo-Croat — one of her five languages — recalling how her family had been welcomed in Belgrade in her youth and insisting that Nato had no quarrel with the Serb people.

> 'We came to America after being driven twice from our home, first by Hitler and then Stalin'

She may have other memories, too. Once she was accosted by a Serb woman who screamed: "Why are you so awful to the Serbs?" She replied, in the same language: "Because they are awful!"

Mr Milosevic himself was once left in no doubt when he attempted to skirt around a direct question on war crimes. "Don't give me that." Ms Albright shot back. "I'm from this region. I'm not naive."

A vigorous advocate of airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs, Ms Albright's determination to stand up to ethnic aggression must have been redoubled by the discovery, two years ago, that she was herself Jewish. Raised as a Roman Catholic, now an Episcopalian, Ms Albright learnt of her origins, and the deaths of three grandparents and other family members in Nazi concentration camps, soon after her appointment as Secretary of State.

It was, she said with remarkable understatement, a "major surprise".

Michael Dobbs, the *Washington Post* journalist who revealed her Jewish roots, has already dubbed the US Secretary of State the "spiritual patron" of the Kosovo crisis. When historians assess why the bombs began falling in Yugoslavia they will recall not only the troubled and complex history of the region, but also that of Madeleine Albright.

Diary, page 18

Lockerbie suspects in Scottish custody

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL AT CAMP ZEIST

THE two Libyans suspected of carrying out the Lockerbie bombing were last night in The Netherlands awaiting trial under Scottish law at a specially-converted former US Air Force base.

Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 46, and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh, 42, agreed to be extradited to Scotland after being delivered to Dutch authorities at The Hague by Hans Corell, the United Nations chief legal counsel, after a 3½-hour flight from Tripoli.

The pair, who were indicted in 1991 over the December 1988 bombing in which 270 people died, were last night due to be handed over to Scottish police and taken to Camp Zeist, the 100-acre site near Utrecht where they are to be charged, committed and tried before three Scottish judges.

Mr Corell, 59, was first out of the aircraft to hand over the men's passports, as agreed in advance with the Dutch authorities. Both suspects were accompanied by a brother and their lawyer, but Mr Corell refused to identify three other passengers aboard the Italian aircraft.

Speaking in Rotterdam afterwards Mr Corell, a Swede, said: "Acting under the authority of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, I performed the task entrusted to him by the Security Council . . . to assist the Libyan government with physical arrangements for the safe transfer of the two accused in the Lockerbie case from Libya direct to the Netherlands."

He said that a report would now go to the UN Security Council on what he described as an "extraordinary and unprecedented" mission.

Mr Corell said the Libyans had not declared any intention to oppose extradition and added: "On no occasion have I heard from the Libyan delegation any doubts expressed about the independence or impartiality of the Scottish court to be sitting in the Netherlands. On the contrary, it has been referred to with respect."

Scottish police armed with sub-machine guns yesterday patrolled inside the 7ft wire perimeter fence separating the 100-acre site, which has been declared Scottish territory for the duration of the trial, from scores of uninterested Dutch tourists wandering among the warplanes on display at the Military Aviation Museum next door.

Reinforcements with guard dogs arrived at the screened-off former barracks containing the temporary cells where the Libyans will be held while the permanent courtroom and prison are finished. At the gates of the camp, Norman McFadyen, Procurator Fiscal for Lothian and Borders, confirmed that the delivery of the suspects would allow the prosecution team headed by Lord Hardie, the Lord Advocate, to "properly discharge" its responsibility "both to the people of Scotland and to the families of those who were killed".

He said that the trial would be "fair and proper" and that said "Today's handover signals we are an important step closer to bringing the tragic event of a decade ago to a dignified conclusion."

Pamela Dix, who lost her brother Peter, 35, was at The Hague yesterday to greet the men's arrival with a "tremendous sense of relief".

She said: "It is a very emotional moment for me. We have waited for this time since November 1991. I think one of the most important things, the most important thing for me, is to find out the truth of exactly what happened."

LINKS

www.fco.gov.uk/news/ latest news from the Foreign Office on the Lockerbie handover
www.open.gov.uk/aaib/a739pa.htm Department of Transport report on the Lockerbie crash
www.law.gla.ac.uk/lockerbie/ briefing on the Lockerbie crash by the University of Glasgow School of Law
www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ly.html CIA profile of Libya


Libyan TV picture of Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 46, and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh leaving Tripoli for The Netherlands

Legal machine gears up for £100m battle

BY GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONCE the Lockberbie bomb suspects have been extradited their trial will be dealt with like any other court case under Scottish law.

The Libyans will make their first appearance before Sheriff Graham Cox, the sheriff principal of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, within 48 hours of their formal arrest by Scottish police officers stationed at Camp Zeist.

Before they appear in court, Abdel Baset Ali Mohammed al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh will have access to legal advice. Their defence team will be led by Kamal Maghur, a Libyan lawyer who has had a varied career as a judge, a government minister and an ambassador.

Mr Maghur will work alongside the suspects' Scottish defence lawyer, Alistair Duff, 44, who will appoint Scottish counsel to his team. His one appointment so far is Bill Taylor, QC, the only lawyer in Britain to be a Queen's Counsel in both Scotland and England, but by the time the full trial gets under way he is expected to have a legal team of six.

The short committal hearing will be held in private with only two United Nations' observers and a shorthand writer to witness the start of legal proceedings. Although a criminal case as serious as the Lockerbie bombing will ultimately be heard by the High Court, the first hearing must take place in front of a sheriff. The purpose of the hearing is to allow the prosecutors, Norman McFadyen, the regional procurator fiscal for Edinburgh, and Jim Brisbane, the depute principal Crown agent, to question the accused about the circumstances surrounding the allegations contained in the petition warrant.

Unlike committal hearings in England, where it is a function of the court to judge whether there is a case to be answered, in Scotland the case proceeds automatically to the High Court. The procurator fiscal, Mr McFadyen, will ask questions on behalf of the Crown, but the defendants need not answer. It is common for defendants to make no plea. The men will also be formally charged with the crimes outlined in the petition for the arrest warrant, which was issued on November 13, 1991.

The charges are murder, conspiracy to murder and contravention of the Aviation Security Act 1982. It is alleged that the two men, working for the Libyan Intelligence Services, placed a bomb on board Pan Am flight 103 for terrorist purposes in order to destroy the aircraft and in doing so killed all 259 passengers and crew as well as 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie.

At the end of the committal hearing the two accused will be committed for trial. They will be held in custody as defendants cannot be bailed on a murder charge in Scotland.

The case, which will cost British taxpayers an estimated £100 million, is expected to begin early next year.

Tartan passion of UN lawyer

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations legal adviser who escorted the Lockerbie suspects to Holland has a penchant for wearing a kilt, playing the bagpipes and reciting Burns poems — even though he is Swedish.

Hans Corell, the UN's top lawyer, has been obsessed with Scotland since studying there as a 16-year-old exchange student.

Colleagues say the distinguished international lawyer formed a life-long friendship with a Scottish Presbyterian minister who encouraged him to take bagpipe lessons and study Burns's poetry.

In many ways the baby-faced bureaucrat is the antithesis of the dashing UN troubleshooter Giandomenico Picco, who freed the British and American hostages held in Lebanon. If Signor Picco was the UN's James Bond, Mr Corell is its George Smiley.

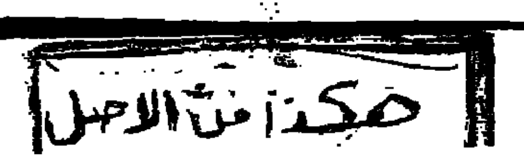
After receiving a law degree at the University of Uppsala, he started as a court clerk, becoming a judge in petty criminal cases before joining his country's justice ministry, where he became an expert in international law.


Corell: plays the pipes and recites Burns

The apparently placid Swede has an eccentric side, however. On several occasions he has shocked UN staff by attending office parties dressed in full tartan regalia and puffing on his own set of pipes.

At the annual dinner of UN correspondents two years ago, he entertained giggling reporters with a thickly accented rendition of Burns's "To A Mouse".

Mr Corell's Scottish connection has been kept quiet during negotiations with Libyan officials over the surrender of the two Lockerbie suspects. A smiling UN official said: "I am glad it did not come out until after the deal. Libya would have said he was a Scottish agent."



Stag cull puts shine back on Golden Mile

*Blackpool police are taking a tough line with louts giving the resort a bad name. **Russell Jenkins** watches them in action*

A DRUNKEN young man throws a flurry of punches outside a nightclub in Blackpool. He is arrested immediately, bringing his part in the nightly pantomime of kiss-me-quick fun, frantic clubbing and laddish boozing to an abrupt end.

Still spitting indignation for the benefit of excited teenage girls, shivering in strapless party dresses in the cold Easter weekend night, the young man is ushered none too gently into a police car. He is destined to spend a night in the cells and become one more statistic in Operation Arrival. Launched by Lancashire Police ten days ago, its aim is to clean up the town's notorious Golden Mile, a sprawl of garishly lit pubs and clubs.

The quarter of a mile of coastline on either side of Blackpool Tower is the No 1 destination for stag and hen parties. The revellers come to the town, a working-class fantasy land, to let their hair down. But in recent years their behaviour has descended into wild loutishness: groups of men drink in the streets, square up for fights, urinate in doorways and devise increasingly imaginative ways to celebrate the stag tradition. The victim, usually drunk and incapable, is often stripped and tied to a lamppost or car bumper with rolls of Cellophane. Around 2am, when up to 30,000 young people pour out of the clubs, streaking has become a a ritual.

Police officers working on Operation Arrival swamp known troublespots at peak times — dozens of them, all highly visible in bright yellow jackets. Their brief is not to wait until trouble happens, but to steam in before it kicks off.

Even before the holiday weekend was over, the operation was being hailed as a success, with Lancashire Police delivering crime figures of which most chief constables can only dream: crime was down overall last month by 31 per cent. Detective Sergeant Pat Gill, recruited from the divisional intelligence unit, said the operation was being run like a major incident. An operations centre has been set up in the gym at headquarters. From here, up to 100 officers are despatched to the front line.

On Good Friday night, pubs such as Cahoots and Brannigans — motto "drinking, dancing, cavorting" — were spewing out noisy, drink-filled men in shirtsleeves, and even noisier girls, clutching bare arms to keep warm. As they moved from bar to club, heading for Heaven and Hell, Rumours, the Palace or Jellies, they passed under the watchful eye of uniformed police stationed at every 50 yards. The hopelessly drunk were picked up; those carrying beer bottles were told to "get rid".

> 'We are saying to visitors that this is a nice, fun place'

PC Simon Copley, 6ft 8in, stopped a man urinating in the doorway of Pricebusters. A man in a check shirt was thrown out of Cahoots, a new venue on the mile, for pouring beer on dancers from the balcony. "It's his stag party, but his friends are staying inside," PC Robin Hardiman said. "Some friends."

Minutes later, the two constables were on the scene when the young man started throwing punches outside Coral Island. Within seconds PC Copley was throwing his rugby player's bulk into the fray, slamming the offender against the shuttered doors of Mr B's amusement centre. "This is typical of the kind of thing that happens: little skirmishes," PC Copley said. At one time they would have been warned and let go; "Now we arrest them. He will either have to be bound over or pay a small fine. The real punishment is a night in the cells and an appearance in court."

Superintendent Ian McPherson, the operations manager, said: "We are trying to go through an educational process with visitors. We are saying to them, 'This is nice fun place to be, but enjoy it in a safe way.' The officers are not there to be intimidatory, but friendly and fair. It seems to be working."



Police patrols make themselves visible on the Golden Mile in Blackpool at night and are ready to put a stop to any mayhem as soon as it starts


The Golden Mile is a prime venue for hen parties

Public invited to see royal bride arrive

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PRINCE Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to invite 2,000 members of the public inside the precincts of Windsor Castle for their wedding in June.

Applications are to be invited for tickets to view the couple entering and leaving St George's Chapel, spiritual home to the Order of the Garter, which stands inside the castle walls.

More than 500 guests have been invited to the service, including Tony and Cherie Blair, Lord Lloyd-Webber, Chris Tarrant and Billy Connolly.The wedding will be conducted by the Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, who has become a close friend during the couple's visits to Sandringham, which lies within his diocese.

The 2,000 members of the public will be allowed to stand in the lower ward area of the castle precincts, the area that is normally open to the public. Buckingham Palace will give details of how to obtain tickets in the next few weeks.

The concept of public access to the ceremony has been borrowed from the annual Garter Day Service at St George's, which is attended by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. This year it will be held on June 14, five days before the wedding.

The Garter, the oldest existing monarchical order of chivalry, was founded by Edward III in 1348 after the capture of Calais, with King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table in mind. On Garter Day, 2,000 members of the public are invited into the castle precincts to watch the arrival and departure of members of the Royal Family as well as the 24 Knight Companions with the Royal Knights, Foreign Knights and Ladies of the order.

The couple, both 34, had hoped to keep the wedding as private as possible. Prince Edward's television company, Ardent Productions, is expected to film the ceremony for broadcast, with the profits going to a new charitable trust under the control of the couple.

Helen Rumbelow, page 18


St George's Chapel: 500 guests will be inside

Strike plan to save teachers at bad schools

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE largest classroom union agreed a programme of strikes yesterday designed to prevent teachers in failing schools from being sacked.

Hundreds of teachers in schools that make insufficient progress within two years of failing an inspection are having to apply for their own posts under the Government's "Fresh Start" scheme. Most lose their jobs, the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers was told, as schools are restructured under new leadership.

The Government's programme aims to rescue failing schools by closing them and reopening them under a new name. But delegates at the conference agreed unanimously to ballot for industrial action if the policy led to redundancies among teachers.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, told the meeting in Brighton that teachers in failing schools, far from being sacked, should be paid more than their colleagues elsewhere. "It is difficult to imagine a teacher who would want to apply for a job in a school that is in need of special measures.

"Who would want to apply for a job if the likelihood was that the teachers would do their best to turn round the school, yet face the prospect of a clearout of staff if it doesn't come out of special measures?"

Kevin Doherty told delegates that he had been made redundant from George Orwell School, in Islington, North London, and the majority of his colleagues had not applied for their jobs back when the local authority decided to close the school and turn it into an arts and media college. "Can you imagine what it has been like for those pupils in schools that have known they are going to be closed down over a period of a year? It has been extremely unsettling."

Anne Antonio, of the Brighton and Hove branch, said that only three of the 43 teachers at Marina High School had been guaranteed their jobs under a Fresh Start scheme. "Our members are facing redundancy. How many more around the country will face them same?"

When Marina High was the Stanley Deason School, in the 1980s, it was popular with the middle-class residents of Kemptown, Brighton, but the demand for places has dwindled since it failed an inspection in 1996. A new head teacher was appointed last week and the classroom posts will be filled soon.

Andrew Swainston, of Lambeth in South London, said Lillian Bayliss School, one of 18 to be "named and shamed" by ministers shortly after the Government came to power, was being restructured under the Fresh Start programme. None of the teachers applying for their old jobs had so far been guaranteed employment in September.

Mr Swainston said that, five years ago, black teachers had formed more than half the staff of the school. By September, there would be none on full-time contracts.

Martin Reed, for the union's executive, said that the Government's approach was scapegoating teachers for more deep-seated problems. "Fresh Start is a con. It's a betrayal of the education service, a betrayal of teachers and, more than anything, it is a betrayal of children in those schools."

☐ In a separate debate, delegates restated the union's claim for the equivalent of a four-day week to give teachers more time to prepare lessons and mark work.

The demand comes as part of the cross-union campaign for a national contract for teachers, guaranteeing low class sizes and a break every two hours.

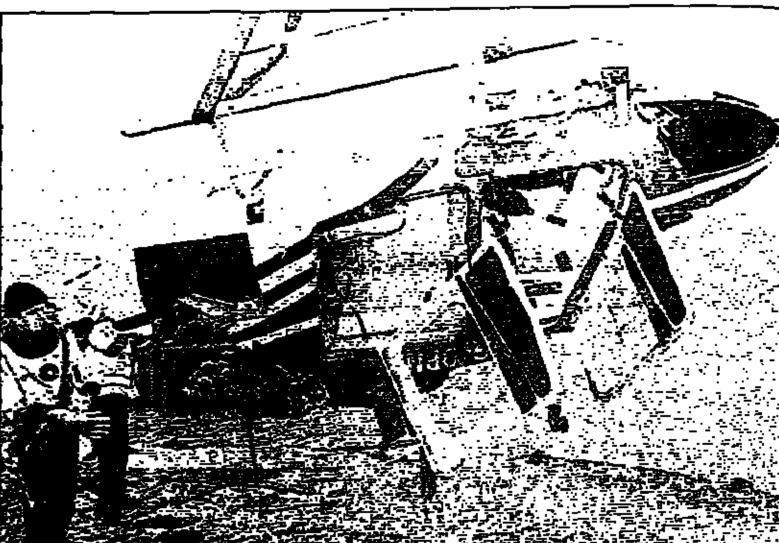
TEAMWORK PLEA

The president of the second biggest teaching union called yesterday for "teamwork and sharing", rather than confrontation with the Government. Bill Morley, president of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, made his speech calling for a spirit of mutual accommodation at the opening of the organisation's annual conference in Eastbourne.



Air-sea rescue: the lifeboat crew return with the two survivors from the helicopter that crashed off Lyme Regis yesterday, bottom left, and then carry ashore Lisa Burgess, the injured pregnant woman, above. The helicopter, below right, was later recovered from the sea. Full story, page 1





Start anti-racism lessons at 4, says attack victim

By Our Education Editor

A BLACK teacher who was the victim of a violent racist attack at her South London primary school called yesterday for anti-racist education from the age of four.

Alison Moore, who addressed the National Union of Teachers' conference with her arm in a sling as a result of injuries sustained in the attack 14 months ago, told delegates that she had not recovered psychologically, either. Having told the conference in an emotional address a year ago that she was looking forward to returning to school, she still had not been able to do so on a permanent basis.

The 31-year-old teacher was attacked in the playground by four white youths after staying late at Sandhurst junior school, in Lewisham. She has since had death threats and had National Front slogans daubed on her front door.

Ms Moore told a fringe meeting that children should receive anti-racist education "from reception class to university". Lessons should include African history and awareness of other cultures, including their music and food.

"Even the most hard-core racists go out at the weekend to have a curry," Ms Moore said. "Why are they having curry or buying Chinese food? It is because we are contributing to society, and that needs to be stressed so that some myths can be eradicated."

Ms Moore added: "Black people did not come to England to take people's jobs or take away members of the opposite sex or drain the social security system. We are here because we were invited here. We are here because hundreds of years ago Britain went into what is now called the Third World and plundered it, as well as taking people as slaves."

The conference unanimously backed a motion calling for the national curriculum to include anti-racism as an integral and explicit part. It also demanded that teacher training courses be revised to include the subject.

Freemason officers are given ultimatum

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

JACK STRAW has given chief constables three weeks to set up voluntary registers for police officers to declare whether they are Freemasons.

The Home Secretary's demand comes as a survey by *The Times* found that only a small minority of forces have responded to growing pressure from MPs and ministers for action to ease public anxiety about the influence of Freemasons in the justice system.

Today all 43 forces in England and Wales will receive a letter from Mr Straw urging them to have registers in place by the end of this month. Home Office officials say that, if forces do not set them up, or officers do not sign them, the Home Secretary will legislate for compulsory registers. The registers would be used to investigate complaints of bias or corruption.

Three years ago, chief constables accepted that police should be more open about Freemasonry, but the *Times* survey found that just two forces had registers for all ranks. Two others had them only for senior officers and five more were putting registers in place, but others have no plans to monitor Masonic membership.

The voluntary registers are seen by the Home Office as a way of testing how well checks can work before a decision is taken on the next move. Mr Straw also plans changes so that all police recruits will have to declare whether they are Freemasons, and legislation to open registers to public inspection.

But the *Times* survey shows that many chief constables will not act unless the registers are compulsory. The survey brought a response from 35 forces, of which 25 have no plans for a registers. Only the Derbyshire force and Avon and Somerset have registers. The Derbyshire register has one entry out of a force strength of 1,700.

South Wales has a register for high-ranking officers. Dyfed-Powys has a register for all officers from the rank of superintendent upwards, but no one is registered as a Freemason. The Sussex force is launching a policy that officers cannot have undeclared interests and they are to sign individual statements.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, attacked police membership of lodges three years ago. His force is planning a register, as are Devon and Cornwall, Hertfordshire, Merseyside and North Wales.

The forces without plans for registers include Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, City of London, Cumbria, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

Police praise both sides for peaceful start to parades

By Audrey Magee

THE first of the year's loyalist parades passed off peacefully in Belfast yesterday after nationalist residents agreed to call off protests. The new spirit of compromise bolstered hopes that the 3,000 parades during the marching season would be largely trouble-free.

The Apprentice Boys parade along the mainly nationalist Lower Ormeau Road in South Belfast has ended in violence in recent years. The mood yesterday was very different and police praised both sides for their restraint; community leaders hoped it would set an example.

The Apprentice Boys have paraded along the Lower Ormeau Road since 1904. However, nationalist residents have disputed their right to march, leading to a ban on the parade since 1995. It was banned again this year by the Parades Commission and nationalists, in an act of conciliation, abandoned their plans to hold a 15-hour counter-demonstration. Instead, they stayed at home as police at a lightly manned barricade waited for the arrival at 11am of 30 members of the Ballynafeigh Club, walking towards the city centre to join thousands of other Apprentice Boys in the annual Easter Monday parade.

The Ballynafeigh Apprentice Boys marched peacefully to the barrier and handed in a letter of protest to the police. Tommy Cheevers, a leading member, said: "It is so disappointing that [at a time when] we are trying to bring about change in our country, a bit more tolerance, a bit better understanding of each other, that the people now running away from dialogue are the residents."





Apprentice Boys making their way to the barricade

The Apprentice Boys, who were then bused to the centre of Belfast, offered to hold talks with residents to resolve the dispute. However, Gerard Rice of the Lower Ormeau Residents Committee dismissed a suggestion of talks as a "fabrication".

Despite the bickering, police and community leaders were delighted that the parade passed off peacefully. The RUC praised both sides "for managing to reach a peaceful compromise", while community leaders hoped the outcome would serve as guidance to the half dozen highly controversial parades to be held across Northern Ireland this summer.

The most difficult is at Drumcree in Portadown, where Orangemen are still camped out, demanding the right to walk down the nationalist Garvaghy Road. The men have been there since early last July.

The Government is making behind-the-scenes attempts to resolve the standoff. Tony Blair met both sides in the dispute last week during his marathon session of talks at Hillsborough Castle.

David Trimble, the First Minister and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, is under increasing pressure to meet the residents of Garvaghy Road, which forms part of his constituency, in an attempt to defuse the potential for serious conflict this summer.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Banks open for savings deadline

Banks stayed open yesterday to cope with savers aiming to beat the midnight deadline for Peps and Tessas. Pep sales for March were up by about 30 per cent on last year, the Halifax said. About £1.5 billion has flooded the stock market in ten days, and could push it to a new high tomorrow. Isa demand, page 44

Boy, 2, drowns

A boy aged two drowned after falling from a pleasure boat into the Thames. He had been playing with his brother and sister while their father, from Windsor, renovated the vessel at Donnington Bridge.

Presenter moved

The broadcaster Sheena McDonald, who was seriously injured when she was hit by a police van in London in February, has been transferred to a hospital in her home town of Edinburgh.

Pate withdrawn

Safeway has withdrawn a make of Belgian pâté after customers in Herne Bay, Kent, had symptoms of food poisoning. Shops are telling customers not to eat the delicatessen's Farmhouse Pâté.

Ratted on poteen

Irish police found dead rats in a vat of poteen during a raid on an illegal distillery in a remote part of Co Donegal. Inspector Greg Sullivan said: "This is a warning to anyone not to touch the stuff."

MSPs will demand more pay

Jason Allardyce on calls for Holyrood salaries to equal those of MPs

MEMBERS of the Scottish parliament are to use its historic first term to demand a 15 per cent pay increase on their £40,000 salaries.

Tories, Liberal Democrats and Scottish Nationalists plan to fight a pay settlement approved by the Government because it would give MSPs a basic salary £6,000 less than that paid to Westminster MPs. The opposition parties claim that the Senior Salaries Review Board settlement accepted by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, last week showed "contempt" for the new administration.

Because no single party is likely to emerge after next month's elections with an overall majority, Labour is likely to be outvoted on the issue.

The Liberal Democrat MP Donald Gorrie, who is standing for Holyrood, said that MSPs deserved as much as Members at Westminster because they would be at least as busy. He said: "I am sure this matter will be raised in the parliament early on. I will certainly support parity with Westminster."

Mr Gorrie is also furious that the Government has agreed an allowance limit for office and staff of £39,000 a year, £10,000 less than at Westminster. "I suspect an edict has gone out that no impression may be created that Holyrood is on a par with Westminster," he said.

Party spokesmen for the Tories and the Scottish National Party confirmed that they would support moves in Holyrood to bring MSP pay into line with that of their Westminster counterparts. MSPs are expected to clock up between 900 and 1,000 hours a year, compared with the 1,300 of Westminster MPs.

A move by MSPs to declare Scotland a nuclear-free zone could lead to constitutional tensions between London and Edinburgh. A powerful cross-party alliance of candidates likely to be elected to Holyrood has agreed to back a motion calling for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Scotland, including three Trident submarines based at Faslane near Glasgow.

The anti-nuclear group includes five Labour candidates likely to be elected, and Scottish National Party candidates who expect around 45 of their number to win seats. Several Liberal Democrat candidates have also promised to back the motion, which was suggested by Scottish CND. It could be enough to tip the balance, in a vote, against Labour and Tory MSPs who will argue that Britain must retain its nuclear deterrent and keep it in Scotland.

Although responsibility for nuclear weapons is reserved at Westminster, losing a Holyrood vote on the issue would be a blow for the Prime Minister and Mr Dewar, who is likely to lead the Scottish parliament.

Anti-nuclear campaigners believe a successful vote in Holyrood would send a powerful message to the Ministry of Defence. The SNP has given warning that it may seek to embarass the MoD further by holding a referendum on the issue in Scotland.

Johann Lamont, a Labour candidate and CND member in Glasgow, said she would back an anti-nuclear motion and call for the parliament to initiate a debate on nuclear disarmament. She said that it was still the policy of the Scottish Labour Party to oppose Trident and that Labour MSPs should reflect the views of the party.

New Year baby race sparks rush on chemists

By Helen Rumbelow

THE first clear evidence of a millennium baby boom has come from record sales in family planning products as the key days approach.

If a couple want to become parents on New Year's Day, the ideal time for conception is this week. Most experts consider Friday to be the best date.

Chemists have reported large leaps in sales of certain products connected to planned parenthood: folic acid tablets, ovulation prediction tests and pregnancy tests. However, family planners gave a warning yesterday against decisions based on novelty, rather than genuine care.

The Superdrug chain of pharmacies is waiving the £5.99 fee for its pregnancy testing kit between April 10 and May 7. Among other businesses promoting the millennium baby boom is Yorkshire Television, which will show a night of programmes called *Birth Race 2000* on Saturday night. A website called Babyworld is trying to recruit couples so that it can show a millennium birth live on the Internet.

The Family Planning Association is starting a campaign this week, entitled "A baby is for life, not just for the millennium." It comes after hospitals gave warnings that their standards of care would be reduced because of the demands of a new year baby booms.

"Having a millennium baby is a very romantic notion, but the reality will be very different" a spokesman for the association said. "If you really want a child, why not give it a better chance in life by planning for it later in the year, when the system will not be dangerously overloaded?"

www.itn.co.uk ITN millennium baby site, with links to Babyworld

HUW EVANS

Blaenavon' s industrial landscape is dominated by the winding gear of Big Pit, a conserved coalmine that is open to visits from the public

Blaenavon: Taj Mahal of the Valleys

Valerie Elliott on unlikely world heritage site

A FORMER ironworking and coal mining area in South Wales is being put forward as a world heritage site. If successful, it would share the same international status as the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China and Venice.

The Blaenavon industrial landscape in Torfaen has been selected by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to compete for the honour awarded by Unesco. The site is distinguished by four massive hillside furnaces — vestiges of its former industrial heyday — and Big Pit, a conserved mine now open to visitors. It has jumped ahead of the Lake District, the New Forest, Shakespeare's Stratford and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, West London, in the list of British sites being considered by ministers.

Among landmarks already boasting the coveted status are Stonehenge and Avebury, Blenheim Palace and Park, the Tower of London, the City of Bath, Ironbridge Gorge and Hadrian's Wall military zone. World heritage status is a huge boost to tourism.

Blaenavon, at the head of the South Wales Valleys, may seem an unlikely choice. But the Government was told by Unesco officials to steer clear of palaces, cathedrals and historic towns and to come up with places linked to industrial heritage or natural landscapes.

Blaenavon's industrial past dates from the late 16th century, when the area was crossed by a horse-drawn railway. The landscape also includes a stretch of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal and Britain's oldest existing railway and canal interchange warehouses, which date from 1810-20.

Mr Smith said last night that the site was of a type "generally under-represented on the current world heritage list". He accepted that people campaigning for other British sites would be disappointed, but said that he would put forward the Dorset and East Devon coast and the historic village of New Lanark for world heritage status to mark the millennium.

Mr Smith also has responsibility for choosing sites in British overseas territories and has picked the town of St George, Bermuda, to be submitted with Blaenavon this year.

The full list of sites drawn up by Mr Smith for consideration for nomination by Britain for world heritage status in the next five to ten years is:

Chatham naval base, Kent; the Cornish mining industry; Darwin's home and workplace; the Derwent Valley; Dorset and East Devon coast; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Lake District; Liverpool commercial centre and waterfront; Manchester and Salford; the Monkwearmouth/Jarrow monastic sites; the New Forest; the Paddington/Bristol railway; Saltaire; Shakespeare's Stratford; the Wash and North Norfolk coast; the Cairngorms; the Flow Country; the Forth rail bridge; New Lanark; Pontcysyllte aqueduct, Wrexham; Mount Stewart, Co Down.

From the overseas territories he has chosen Anguilla Fountain Cavern and Gibraltar Fortress.

Outlook for 2001 is floods, fires and record heat

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

RECORD temperatures are being forecast for the start of the next millennium because of global warming.

Scientists estimate that rising carbon dioxide levels, aggravated by a sudden return of El Niño, will push temperatures in 2001 or 2002 beyond those of last year, the previous hottest.

Experts are saying that the high temperatures will increase the risk of natural disasters. Phil Jones, of the climatic research unit at the University of East Anglia, an adviser to the Government on climate change, gave a warning yesterday of hurricanes in Mexico and parts of the South Pacific, and violent storms in the Eastern Pacific and places such as California, Peru and Ecuador. Severe floods, linked with warmer-than-average winter temperatures, could hit Britain and the rest of Europe.

He said the severity of the weather systems could be the most violent in modern times "because there will be more energy in the system. There may also be extreme droughts in places such as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and parts of Australia," said Professor Jones, whose unit works with the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre to compile global temperature patterns.

Forest fires of the kind that recently destroyed more than four million hectares in northern Brazil, two million hectares in the Khabarovsk district of Russia and large areas of Indonesia may flare up. Professor Jones said: "If nothing is done a lot of the forest fires in places such as Sumatra and Borneo are likely to reoccur, along with regional smogs."

There is also concern for corals, vital nurseries for fish and natural sea defences for low-lying islands such as the Maldives. Last year large numbers of reefs were killed by unusually high sea-surface temperatures.

The forecast is based on rising levels of greenhouse gases, temperatures trends during the past 40 years, and mounting evidence that El Niño is becoming more frequent and more severe. Professor Jones said it now seemed likely that the next El Niño will hit in 2001 or 2002, helping to make that year "probably the warmest for more than a millennium".

The warnings come as leading academics, environmentalists, politicians and churchmen have signed a declaration urging governments to agree a cut of 70 to 80 per cent in carbon emissions on 1990 levels.

Forecast, page 22

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mustard gas found on tip

Chemical warfare agents including mustard gas and phosgene have been unearthed in a Wiltshire village. More than 100 glass phials were found in an old rubbish tip 400 metres from cottages at Winterbourne Gunner. Staff at the Chemical and Biological Defence Centre at Porton Down have confirmed that the containers were full of liquid containing chemical warfare compounds. It is believed the phials date from before the Second World War. Troops from a specialist ordnance disposal unit of the Royal Engineers have been working for months to check fields around the village for buried munitions. They say the area is likely to contain other rubbish pits. An army spokesman said scientists had calculated that the risk from a leak or breakage of any of the containers would have extended only about 50 metres from the pit, which is on ministry land.

Police seize £20m drugs

Four men were arrested when police seized drugs worth £20 million as they were being transferred to a van at a layby near Newark, Nottinghamshire, from a lorry that had travelled from the Continent. Among the haul were 250kg of cocaine and amphetamines and 100kg of canabis resin. A National Investigation Services spokesman said: "This is without question one of the biggest ever drugs hauls in Britain." Police had followed the van from the North West. The four men will appear in court in Manchester.

Child murder plot remands

Two men were remanded in custody yesterday charged with plotting to kill young girls. Paul Thomas Elkington, 46, and Michael Williams, 49, were both remanded to reappear at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on April 13. Elkington, of no fixed abode, and Williams, of Wolverhampton, appeared before Stipendiary Magistrate Roman Bereza, charged with conspiracy to murder female children aged between two and seven on a date between March 29 and April 3 this year.

Memorably card sharp

A labourer who can recite every word in the Book of Revelation is expected to be named in the next edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* for memorising a pack of shuffled cards. John Burrows, 37, of Tonyrefail, South Wales, memorised all 52 cards in a freshly shuffled pack in 34.35 seconds. He has moved on to his local telephone directory, from which he can remember all the names and numbers up to H. He started memory training in 1986 to give him the edge in poker games.

Cheese chase is back on

The annual cheeserolling races down a hillside in Gloucestershire are to resume in May after being cancelled last year because of safety fears. In 1997 there were 33 casualties as people taking part in the four races at Cooper's Hill, near Cheltenham, came to grief. Now the cheeserolling committee says it has made proper safety provisions for the event on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, when about 40 people at a time will pursue a 7lb Double Gloucester down the hill. The event attracts about 5,000 spectators.

Yemen trial ultimatum

The judge in the Yemeni case against eight Britons accused of terrorism told defence lawyers to end their boycott of proceedings before the trial begins tomorrow. Judge Jamal Muhammad Omar said: "If they do not, other lawyers will be chosen." The seven lawyers pulled out of the trial a week ago in protest at not being allowed to meet their clients privately in prison. Tony Blair has written to the Yemeni Government calling for the suspects to be examined by doctors, and for the lawyers to be allowed access.

Baby's year catching up



She is a year old, but at 8lb Kallie Rogers weighs just over the average for a newborn baby. Kallie, above, was given only hours to live after being delivered three months prematurely, weighing 12oz. Her mother, Sheila, of Heathfield, Devon, said: "Her skin was almost transparent, like clingfilm only a muddy colour. We refused to give up hope that she would survive." Kallie faces years of medication for her weak liver and kidney but, despite her newborn appearance, is struggling to act like any other one-year-old. She has cut her first tooth and is trying to crawl.

New faces tipped to join Cabinet


Reid: Blairite in Prescott's team

Philip Webster reports on the reshuffle that is likely to follow Scots and Welsh elections

JOHN REID and Paul Murphy have emerged as strong candidates to enter the Cabinet when Tony Blair makes his next reshuffle over the coming three months.

Dr Reid, currently Transport Minister, is a leading Blairite in John Prescott's predominantly old Labour Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Mr Murphy is given much credit in Whitehall for his strong performance as one of Mo Mowlam's deputies at the Northern Ireland Office. The two ministers could figure in what the Prime Minister intends to be a limited reconstruction after the Scottish and Welsh elections.

The overall size of the changes that the Prime Minister makes to the Government makes this summer could depend on discussions he is expected to have with Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. According to government insiders, Mr Dobson and Dr Mowlam are Mr Blair's preferred choices as Labour candidate to become Mayor of London.

Mr Blair has left open the door for a leading business figure to come forward as the Labour nominee. But no plausible candidate from the business world has appeared and there is widespread expectation that Mr Blair will tell Mr Dobson that he wants him to become the capital's first elected mayor, a post that will be one of the most powerful in the country.

Mr Dobson is privately resistant to the idea, but many believe that he will, in the end, be persuaded. Dr Mowlam, a very popular figure, is also understood to be a choice highly favoured in Downing Street. But she is believed to be looking for a central role in government when her time in the Province ends.

Mr Blair believes that either of them would be far more popular with London voters than Ken Livingstone, the last leader of the Greater London Council, who is still struggling to become the Labour candidate amid signals that he will be kept off the list that will go before the party's London members to decide the choice.

Mr Murphy is thought to be in line for the post of Welsh Secretary if Alun Michael becomes First Minister after the elections to the new assembly. Similarly, the post of Scottish Secretary will be vacant if Donald Dewar sees off the Scottish Nationalist challenge to become First Minister in Scotland.

After the elections the Scottish and Welsh Offices will be scaled down, with fewer ministerial posts. Peter Hain, one of the junior Welsh Office ministers, is expected to be promoted, partly as reward for his central role in the campaign to get Mr Michael chosen as the Labour candidate for First Minister, after Ron Davies stepped down.

Helen Liddell, one of Mr Dewar's deputies, who has been playing a leading role in the Scottish campaign, is in the running to be Scottish Secretary, but she may be edged out by Brian Wilson, currently a minister at Trade and Industry.

Mr Blair is widely expected to leave his Big Four ministers — Mr Prescott, Robin Cook, Jack Straw and Gordon Brown — in their jobs until the general election. With Stephen Byers having moved to the Department of Trade and Industry after Peter Mandelson's resignation and David Blunkett considered difficult to replace at Education and Employment, the scope for wide-scale changes is circumscribed.

Should other Cabinet vacancies occur, Tessa Jowell, the Blairite Health Minister, would be in line for promotion. Patricia Hewitt, the highly rated Economic Secretary to the Treasury, seems certain to be promoted soon.

Dr Reid is felt by senior ministers to have deserved Cabinet rank. Mr Blair might decide to keep him at Environment to balance Mr Prescott's more traditionalist team, but make him a second Cabinet minister within that department.

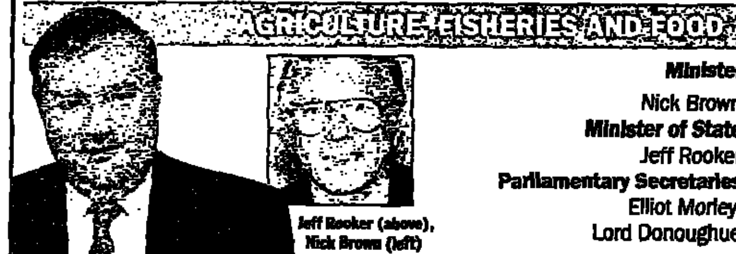
GOVERNMENT LINKS

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk Cabinet Office website
www.cabinet-office.uk/index/machine.htm The Machinery of Government
www.cabinet-office.uk/central/1998/minister.htm#cab UK Central Government — Ministers and Whips
www.cabinet-office.uk/cabsec/index/cabcom/index.htm Cabinet Committee Structure
www.cabinet-office.uk/index/min-org.htm E-mail addresses of Cabinet Office Ministers
www.number-10.gov.uk Downing Street website
www.parliament.uk Parliament website
www.parliament.uk/commons/hsecom.htm House of Commons home page
www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld/ldhome.htm House of Lords home page
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk Treasury website
www.homeoffice.gov.uk Home Office website


Murphy: one of Mowlam's doties

THE TIMES Complete list of Government THE TIMES

AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD


Jeff Rooker (above), Nick Brown (left)

Minister
Nick Brown
Minister of State
Jeff Rooker
Parliamentary Secretaries
Elliot Morley,
Lord Donoughue

CABINET OFFICE


Jack Cunningham (left)
Lord Falconer of Thoroton (above)

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Jack Cunningham
Minister of State
Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC
Parliamentary Secretary
Peter Kilfoyle

CULTURE MEDIA AND SPORT


Janet Anderson (above), Chris Smith (right)

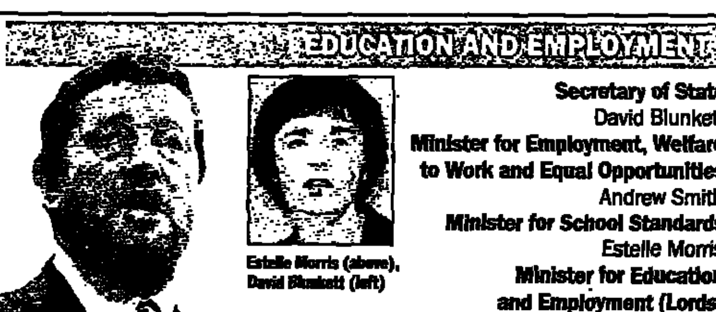
Secretary of State
Chris Smith
Under-Secretaries of State
Tony Banks *(Minister for Sport)*
Alan Howarth *(Minister for Arts)*
Janet Anderson *(Minister for Tourism, Film and Broadcasting)*

DEFENCE


Doug Henderson (above), George Robertson (left)

Secretary of State
George Robertson
Minister for Defence Procurement
Lord Gilbert
Minister for the Armed Forces
Doug Henderson
Under-Secretary of State
John Spellar

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT


Estelle Morris (above), David Blunkett (left)

Secretary of State
David Blunkett
Minister for Employment, Welfare to Work and Equal Opportunities
Andrew Smith
Minister for School Standards
Estelle Morris
Minister for Education and Employment (Lords)
Baroness Blackstone
Under-Secretaries of State
Charles Clarke, Margaret Hodge, George Mudie

ENVIRONMENT TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS


Michael Meacher (above), John Prescott (left)

Secretary of State
John Prescott
Minister for the Environment
Michael Meacher
Minister for Local Government and Housing
Hilary Armstrong
Minister for the Regions, Regeneration and Planning
Richard Caborn
Minister of Transport
John Reid
Under-Secretaries of State
Nick Raynsford *(Minister for London and Construction)*
Glenda Jackson *(Minister for Transport in London)*
Lord Whitty *(Minister for Roads and Road Safety)*
Alan Meale

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Joyce Quin (above), Robin Cook (left)

Secretary of State Robin Cook
Ministers of State
Derek Fatchett *(Middle East, Far East, S.E. Asia, Pacific)*
Joyce Quin *(Europe)*
Tony Lloyd *(Latin America, Africa)*
Under-Secretary of State
Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean *(North America, Caribbean)*

HEALTH


Tessa Jowell (above), Frank Dobson (left)

Secretary of State Frank Dobson
Minister of State John Denham
Minister for Public Health
Tessa Jowell
Under-Secretaries of State
Baroness Hayman
John Hutton

The Cabinet

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Tony Blair

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions
John Prescott

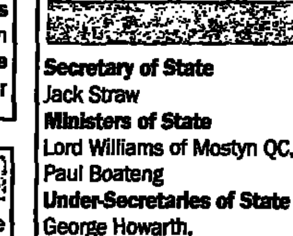
Chancellor of the Exchequer - Gordon Brown
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs - Robin Cook
Lord Chancellor - Lord Irvine of Lairg QC
Secretary of State for the Home Department - Jack Straw
Secretary of State for Education and Employment - David Blunkett
President of the Council and Leader of the Commons - Margaret Beckett
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster - Jack Cunningham
Secretary of State for Scotland - Donald Dewar
Secretary of State for Defence - George Robertson
Secretary of State for Health - Frank Dobson
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip) - Ann Taylor
Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport - Chris Smith
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland - Marjorie Mowlam
Secretary of State for International Development - Clare Short
Secretary of State for Social Security - Alistair Darling
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - Nick Brown

Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women
Baroness Jay of Paddington

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry - Stephen Byers
Secretary of State for Wales - Alun Michael
Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Alan Milburn

HOME OFFICE

Secretary of State
Jack Straw
Ministers of State
Lord Williams of Mostyn QC,
Paul Boateng
Under-Secretaries of State
George Howarth,
Mike O'Brien, Kate Hoey



Lord Williams of Mostyn QC, (above left), Kate Hoey (above right), Jack Straw (right)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Secretary of State
Clare Short
Under-Secretary of State
George Foulkes

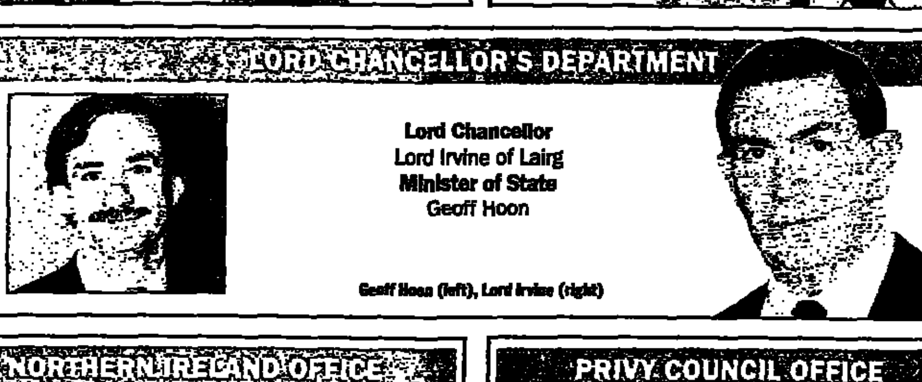

George Foulkes (above), Clare Short (left)

LAW OFFICERS

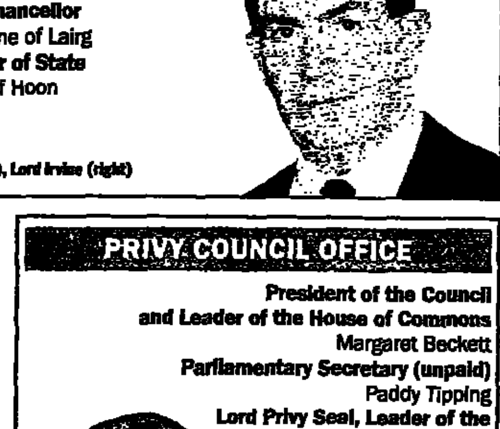
Attorney-General John Morris QC
Solicitor-General Ross Cranston
Lord Advocate Lord Hardie
Solicitor-General for Scotland
Colin Boyd

Colin Boyd (above)
John Morris (right)

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT



Lord Chancellor
Lord Irvine of Lairg
Minister of State
Geoff Hoon


Geoff Hoon (left), Lord Irvine (right)

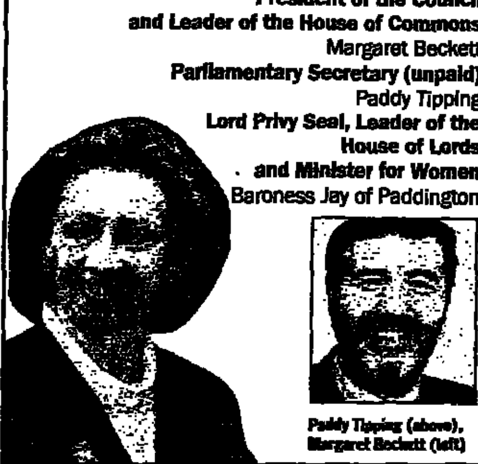
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Secretary of State
Marjorie Mowlam
Ministers of State
Adam Ingram, Paul Murphy
Under-Secretaries of State
John McFall, Lord Dubs


Adam Ingram (above), Mo Mowlam (right)

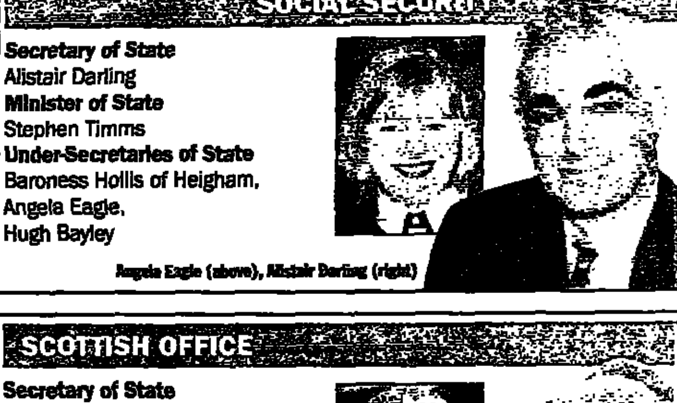
PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
Margaret Beckett
Parliamentary Secretary (unpaid)
Paddy Tipping
Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women
Baroness Jay of Paddington


Paddy Tipping (above), Margaret Beckett (left)

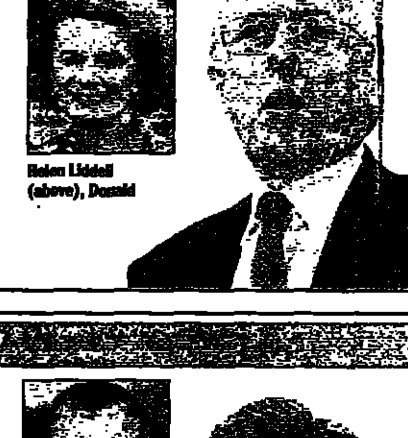
SOCIAL SECURITY

Secretary of State
Alistair Darling
Minister of State
Stephen Timms
Under-Secretaries of State
Baroness Hollis of Heigham,
Angela Eagle,
Hugh Bayley


Angela Eagle (above), Alistair Darling (right)

SCOTTISH OFFICE

Secretary of State
Donald Dewar
Minister for Education
Helen Liddell
Minister for Home Affairs and Devolution
Henry McLeish
Under-Secretaries of State
Sam Galbraith
Calum Macdonald
Lord Sewel
Lord Macdonald of Tradeston


Helen Liddell (above), Donald

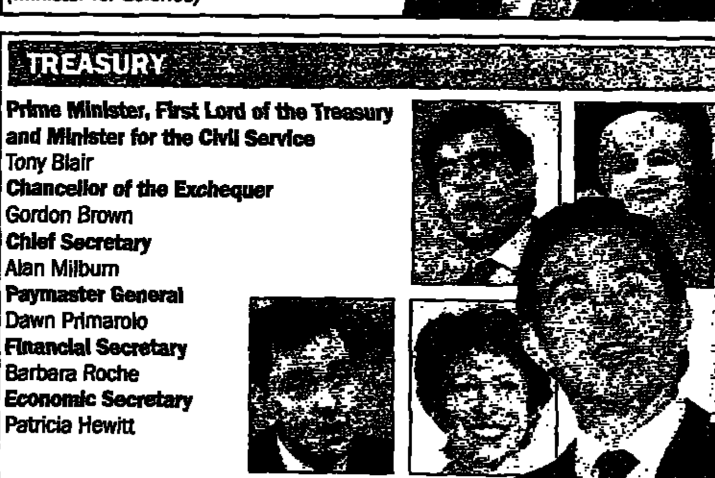
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Secretary of State
Stephen Byers
Minister for Energy and Industry
John Battle
Minister for Trade and Competitive
Lord Simon of Highbury
Minister of State Ian McCartney
Minister for Trade Brian Wilson
Under-Secretaries of State
Kim Howells *(Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs)*
Michael Wills *(Minsiter for Small Firms, Trade and Industry)*
Lord Sainsbury of Turville *(Minister for Science)*


John Battle (above), Stephen Byers (right)

TREASURY

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Tony Blair
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Gordon Brown
Chief Secretary
Alan Milburn
Paymaster General
Dawn Primarolo
Financial Secretary
Barbara Roche
Economic Secretary
Patricia Hewitt


Gordon Brown (top left), Barbara Roche (top right), Alan Milburn (above left), Patricia Hewitt (above right), Tony Blair (right)

WELSH OFFICE

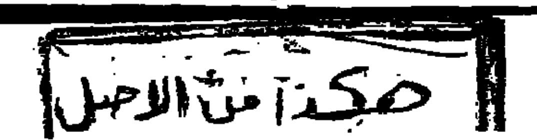
Secretary of State
Alun Michael
Under-Secretaries of State
Peter Hain
Jon Owen Jones

Peter Hain (above), Alun Michael (right)

WHIPS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury
(Government Chief Whip) Ann Taylor
Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household
(Deputy Chief Whip) Keith Bradley
Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household
Thomas McAvoy
Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household
Graham Allen
Lords Commissioner (whips)
Robert Ainsworth, James Dowd, Clive Betts, David Jamieson, Jane Kennedy
Assistant Whips
Anne McGuire, David Hanson, David Clelland, Michael Hall,
Keith Hill, Kevin Hughes, Greg Pope
HOUSE OF LORDS
Captain, Gentleman-at-Arms
(Government Chief Whip) Lord Carter
Captain, Yeomen of the Guard
(Deputy Chief Whip)
Lord McIntosh of Haringey
Lords and Baronesses in Waiting (Whips)
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Hoyle
Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton,
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale,
Baroness Amos
Second Church Estates Commissioner, representing Church Commissioners Stuart Bell

Ann Taylor (right)



China leader heads for US 'snakepit'

Long-awaited visit clouded by hostility, writes James Pringle in Beijing

NATALIE BEHRING / REUTERS



Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, whose eight-day visit to the US against the background of the Kosovo war is viewed as a demanding diplomatic test

WITH China's state-controlled media portraying President Milosevic as hero, and one paper showing President Clinton with a Hitler moustache, the long-awaited visit to the US by Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, which starts today has been portrayed here as a descent into a snakepit.

Mr Zhu, an economist who has little experience in foreign affairs, is starting an eight-day visit to the US at a time when Sino-US ties have been battered by disputes ranging from Beijing's huge trade deficit and China's alleged theft of nuclear secrets to human rights issues and now the Kosovo imbroglio.

"It's the diplomatic test of a lifetime," one analyst said of the visit, which includes a meeting with President Clinton in Washington and business-oriented talks in five other cities. "The very best they can hope for is to get the relationship back on track."

David Shambaugh, a student of Chinese affairs at George Washington University, said: "The US domestic political climate is so hostile right now to China that Zhu is walking into a snakepit. There is no strategic glue to the relationship."

Jiang Zemin, the President, who returned last week from Europe, had apparently ordered a review of Beijing's policy towards the US in the light of the bombing of Yugoslavia, a longtime ally of China. Beijing has also been edging closer to Russia. Both have been sidelined at the UN Security Council by Nato's action.

Beijing sees worrying parallels with Taiwan — in that Kosovo was Belgrade's "internal affair". China's media has lambasted the US actions, describing them as "barbarity" while turning a blind eye to the "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo.

Ties had already been strained by differences over trade and Taiwan, and the fact that Beijing failed to back up its promise during Mr Clinton's visit here last June to talk to the Dalai Lama. They hit rock bottom in recent weeks over charges that China stole secrets from a US nuclear laboratory and a White House decision to seek condemnation of China at the current UN human rights forum in Geneva.

China has also been infuriated by moves in Washington towards a Theatre Missile Defence system for US troops in Asia. The US claims this has been provoked by North Korean missile tests but China sees a ploy to protect Taiwan from Beijing's military challenge.

China's accession to the World Trade Organisation, thought likely at one stage to be announced during Mr Zhu's visit, has now been put on hold and several important issues remain unresolved.

Richard Latham, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing, said: "The focus of the visit has changed during the past few weeks. The aim now is to rebuild confidence and restore sensibility to the relationship."

The American business community had not wanted a World Trade Organisation agreement that would not provide genuine market access, and China's accession had never been likely before the visit, he said.

Of American business hopes, Mr Latham added: "The honeymoon period is over for US firms that have been here 15 years or so. But more than 50 per cent of American companies have been making money in China and are cautiously optimistic about future business. What they want is more transparency and lower tariffs for products brought in to China.

"As for service industries like the insurance, banking and legal sectors, they just want to be able to do business in a field that will provide more jobs than hi-tech industry ever could."

Despite Mr Zhu's lack of experience in foreign affairs, it is thought that his no-nonsense style will go down well in America. But some are worried that, with the US enmeshed in Kososo, little attention will be paid to Mr Zhu.

Leading article, page 19

Dissident diverted

Bangkok: Wang Xizhe, the exiled Chinese dissident, was stranded in Thailand yesterday after he failed in an attempt to return home to pay respects to his dead father.

Mr Wang was travelling on South Korean Asiana Airlines from New York to Beijing when he was taken off the plane during a stopover in Seoul and put on a flight to the Thai capital. He said he would persist in requesting a visa to visit his homeland. His attempt to fly home comes as Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, travels to the US today amid growing anti-Chinese sentiment in Congress. If Mr Wang had reached Beijing, authorities would have faced the embarrassing choice of arresting him or sending him back to the US.

Mr Wang incurred Beijing's wrath in 1996 when he and Liu Xiaobo, another dissident, wrote a letter calling for political reform, more freedom for Tibet and the impeachment of President Jiang. *(Reuters)*

חברון Hebron الخليل

The stamp, denounced as election propaganda, is based on an 1870 painting of the divided city

Peace group boycott on Hebron stamp

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JERUSALEM

PEACE activists yesterday asked Israelis not to buy a newly-issued stamp commemorating Jewish settlement in the tense and divided West Bank city of Hebron.

However, Sigal Galil, a Postal Authority spokeswoman, said the stamp is part of a commemorative series on biblical cities and had nothing to do with politics.

The 1.8 shekel (75p) stamp depicting a cluster of homes nestled in the hills of Hebron was issued in September at the suggestion of Moshe Katzav, the Tourism Minister, as part of a series also featuring the towns of Tzfat, Tiberias and Jerusalem.

Some 450 Jewish settlers live in Hebron, a town of 130,000 Palestinians. In the past few years violence has Hebron between settlers and Palestinians and between Palestinians and the hundreds of Israeli troops stationed there to guard the settlers. The city is holy to Muslims and Jews.

The Israeli peace group Gush Shalom asked Israelis not to buy the stamp, saying it was right-wing propaganda aimed at the May 17 election.

"It's unthinkable that someone going to the post office to buy a stamp has to co-operate with the elections propaganda," said Adam Keller, the group's spokesman. "They're not exactly commemorating the Arabs in Hebron."

But Ms Galil said the stamp was a historical depiction of Hebron, painted in 1870, and commemorating a continuous Jewish presence there. It did not feature the ... Jewish settlement.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Iraqi oil pipeline hit in allied air raid

Baghdad: US and British warplanes destroyed an Iraqi oil pipeline control station in the south of the country in the second such attack in three days, an Oil Ministry spokesman said. The attack was on the station in southern Misan province on Sunday.

It was not clear whether the raid halted the flow of crude from the Buzurgan oilfields to the Mina al-Bakr terminal on the Gulf. The destruction of another oil monitoring station along the same pipeline on Friday failed to stop the flow. A military spokesman in Baghdad said one Iraqi was wounded and a house destroyed in the US and British air raids. *(AFP)*

Rebels kill 22 troops

Algiers: Twenty-two Algerian soldiers were killed by armed Islamic rebels near Blida, south of Algiers, the daily *El Watan* reported. The troops were killed in a gun battle with a "very large number of terrorists" at Melaha, near Blida in farming country. The attackers were finally surrounded by the army, the paper said. Fighting between government forces and Islamic groups has claimed more than 300 lives since March. *(AFP)*

10,000 die in Angola

Luanda: Ten thousand people have died since December in renewed fighting in Angola between rebel Unita forces and the government army, the weekly newspaper *Fohla 8* reported. The toll included 6,000 troops from both sides and 4,000 civilians, aid workers told the paper. About ten people are being killed each day in the government-held city of Kuito, which has been a major target for rebel artillery, according to a local priest. *(AP)*

Easter egg spectacular

Haux, France: *For the twenty-first year in a row, this southwestern* village celebrated Easter Monday over a giant omelette. But this year's was the biggest yet, almost three yards in diameter and made from 4,507 eggs. Villagers woke at the crack of dawn to break the eggs and mix in 6½lb of salt and pepper, 66lb of garlic and onion, and 60lb of bacon. Cooked in a pan 10ft wide, the omelette weighed about 500lb and fed about 1,000 people. *(AFP)*

CHRIS MOON: A STORY OF COURAGE

I stare; my lower leg has gone. I think I'm going to die




Chris Moon in hospital after the blast: "Ahead of me at the bottom of the lane something vile and evil was moving towards me. I had felt this before ..."

Former soldier **Chris Moon**, 36, lost an arm and a leg clearing a minefield in Africa but went on to run the marathon. In the first extract from his compelling story he relives the incident that changed his life

The date: March 7, 1995. The place: a remote minefield in northern Mozambique. The sun is high in the sky and it's hot.

Most of the minefield has been cleared. Neatly painted white sticks starkly mark the safety lanes. The vegetation is cut as short as possible to allow metal detectors to sweep close to the ground. The mined sector is obvious because of the scrub, low bushes and long thick grass. I sweep the metal detector over the parched, red-brown earth, then prod gently and sift through the soil. About five metres in front of me a small whirlwind turns through the minefield. It's a twister. They're quite common in hot climates. As the small spiral of wind twists its demented circular jig, it lifts bits of dead grass and leaves.

I turn to go, then I feel it — cold. In the heat of the African day, how can I feel cold? A shiver runs down my spine and the hairs on the back of my neck rise. Suddenly I'm frightened. Ahead of me, at the bottom of the lane, something vile and evil is moving towards me. I have felt this before. I can only describe it as obscene, utter blackness. I must have had too much sun. I'm dehydrated. Be reasonable.

I know I must not stay here. I am starting to feel sick. My guts ache. I turn quickly and start to walk back down the safety lane. I take three paces and hear the loudest bang I've ever heard.

The noise of the explosion is ringing in my ears. Everything is calm. It's strange how the silence is so loud after an explosion. I'm lying on my chest. I feel fine. No pain. I raise my hand. It's bleeding. I can't move it. Cautiously I start to raise myself. I know the body produces endorphins in time of traumatic injury. I won't have pain for a minute or so.

It must have been a mine.

I turn over carefully and sit up. My hand is mangled and bleeding like a squashed strawberry. I look down at my right leg. The air is sharp with the smell of the explosion and my burnt and blasted flesh.

I stare. My lower leg has completely gone. The foot has vanished. There is just a finger of splintered yellow bone surrounded by ragged pink flesh.

I am surprised that my bone is so yellow. I always thought it was white.

Through the burning and stinging I fight to focus my mind. I'll be lucky to get out of this alive. I think I'm going to die. I will fight the pain, try not to moan. I will not lose control.

I must send a casualty report to the back-up team on the road. It feels like ten minutes has passed since the blast, but I know it is hardly a second. I shout in a controlled voice. "Frank. I'm a casualty. I have been blown up walking down the safety lane. Lower right leg is blown off. Right hand is badly damaged. Get on the radio to the USAID helicopter. Only the two medics should come into the lane with the stretcher. Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir," Frank shouts.


Planning and mapping with colleagues in Cambodia, left. Undergoing demolition training in Mozambique, right

I lie back on the shortly clipped bush grass of the safety lane and I feel as if I'm burning. The right sleeve and leg of my thick cotton boiler suit are shredded to rags but it seems to have done its job of keeping flash burns to a minimum.

I look at my forearm and can see the veins, which normally stick out strong and greeny-blue, have almost disappeared. I know I'm going into shock. My throat is consumed with a burning thirst. It is on fire. It is getting worse. Sleep beckons. I know I could just drift away and die.

I hear a shocked moan behind me. The medic looks at me with wide staring eyes. He puts the trauma pack down and stares in horror at the stump of my leg. I wonder what other injuries I have. I've been wearing body armour and eye protection. At least I can see, and I know I have no stomach injuries.

I wonder if I've had my balls blown off. The thought is terrifying and I fight off a rising surge of panic. I thrust my hand between the popper buttons of my fly and pull up my boxer short elastic. I peer down and see blood around my groin. I gently put my hand down.

I breathe deeply. I check the bits. They're bleeding slightly, but everything is still intact. Thank you, God!

The medics have laid out the orange stretcher next to me. They lift me up gently and put me on the stretcher. I'm surprised they take so much care. I can't feel anything except the burning in my throat. It's like someone's poured petrol down my gullet and set fire to it.

I want to know where we're going. I lift my head and look ahead. There are trees and the grass is long. We're nearly there. I lie back and look at the sky again. The blue is getting more and more beautiful.

I measure time in breaths but I've lost count of the number of breaths. I am being lowered. I try to raise my head. I see the outline of a shiny yellow, black and white helicopter, incongruous among the African trees and long grass. It is silent, ready and waiting. How strange; it's as if they've been expecting me. The chopper door is open and the front left seat has been taken out. The stretcher bearers' pace slows and they lower their load. I prop myself up on my left elbow and look ahead. The pilot is standing in front of me.

"Don't worry, we'll have you out of here in no time." He looks at my injuries and I think he goes slightly pale. I can't imagine I look good.

I lie back. My head isn't quite on the cushion. Kind hands gently lift my head and move the padding so my neck is no longer tilted back.

The tail lifts off first, then we are airborne. The grass

Inspired to get back on your feet

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Long after Douglas Bader shot down his last enemy aircraft in the Second World War, he is still serving his fellow citizens. Bader's battle to fly again after the loss of both legs continues to provide inspiration to thousands of limbless patients.

In the early days after the loss of a limb, none but the pathologically detached can hope to be free of some degree of depression, but the example of those like Bader or Chris Moon encourages amputees who are grieving and despondent and persuades them to concentrate on rehabilitation.

The objective after an amputation and the fitting of a prosthesis is to enable a patient to regain the skills required for everyday living.

It would be fantastic to still be able to climb Mount Everest, but what is really needed is self-sufficiency and the preservation of pride — and this is achieved by learning to carry out such everyday tasks as washing, shaving, dressing, eating, using the lavatory and telephone and, of course, walking, even running, without too obvious a limp.

The degree of rehabilitation achieved by a patient after amputation and a limb prosthesis is not only dependent on determination, but varies according to age, weight and general health and vitality.

It is also related to the skill of the surgeon and the limb-fitter, and the enthusiasm of the physician in charge of rehabilitation.

The stump for below-knee amputation ideally should be about 15cm long, the skin flaps need to be cut so the scar is well-placed when the stump is fashioned and does not have to bear weight and rub, and the bone ends need to be protected by muscles of the upper leg.

Dr Sellaiah Soori, a consultant physician in rehabilitation medicine at Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton, said that below-knee amputations were the most successful of all amputations.

So good were the results that, for instance, the 100 metres record at the Olympics for the disabled was only a couple of seconds slower than that recorded for the standard games.

The prosthesis below the knee can be held in place by a suction socket alone, and a modern carbon-fibre ankle joint system allows the joint to be flexed or extended, the movement someone makes when they press the accelerator of a car up and down, or spontaneously turn in or out when walking, as when on rough ground.

The artificial limb can be made waterproof for swimming, or fitted with shock absorbers for the keen golf player. It can mimic normal movements so sensitively that bystanders will usually not even realise that the patient has an artificial limb.

Above-knee amputations pose greater problems. The knee is a complex joint, difficult to copy artificially — even the comfortable transmission of weight which the stump has to bear presents many troubles. Despite that, above-knee prostheses have come a long way since the peg-leg of Long John Silver or even the tin legs of Douglas Bader, but some limp is inevitable.

Even patients who have lost their right hands may soon become adept with the left, and many are therefore reluctant to use a below-elbow prosthesis.

A recent survey has revealed that the majority of people with a below-elbow amputation don't use one. The hand is an amazingly precise instrument and depends on very keen sensory perception which, unfortunately, no piece of medico-engineering gadgetry can replace.

The hook has changed since Captain Hook's day but they still tend to be coarse, slow and heavy.

Good cosmetic hands are available and various devices which give a pincer movement, worked either mechanically or electrically, between the thumb and first two fingers; but more refined working artificial hands are still only at the research stage. Dr Soori said: "After the loss of a limb, the primary objective is to find out all about just what the person's former life was like and then, through rehabilitation and with the aid of an artificial limb, to see that so far as is possible they can be helped to meet their individual expectations.

"The function of the limb must not only be adequate in regard to their work, but also to their domestic life and hobbies."

CHRIS MOON: A STORY OF COURAGE



PETER NICHOLS

"As a child. when things were not going well, I thanked God I had two arms and two legs. Now I am grateful I still have one of each"

Some say I won't run again. I say I will

I have been in hospital for about ten days. I hope this will be the last amputation and that they have reached the last of the dirt that was blasted up into the leg, because there's not much left below the knee now.

I ask for the usual short back and sides, then go to great lengths to position myself exactly where they want me on the slab. As they prepare the injection, I thank God I am lucky enough to get such brilliant treatment.

When they have time, they take me out in the wheelchair and push me around outside the hospital so I can feel the sunshine and breathe fresh air. The hospital is a modern building. The front is like a well-built, marble-clad office block; the rest is more functional. It inspires confidence.

I know I don't look healthy. One of my young visitors had to rush off and throw up the other day. They all wanted to know what happened when I was blown up. If people ask me, I don't mind telling them. I suppose it's only natural that they are curious. Strangely enough, I hadn't started telling them the really gory bits when he puked.

I wonder how long it will be before I can walk again. Some people think I might be able to run again, though some say I won't. I say I will. Yes, I will.

The doctor and consultant examine the stump and knee. The consultant says: "Good news. The infection is under control and we think it's safe to close the wound. I have also spoken to physio and they are getting you some crutches. Within the next week or so you should be up and about."

Every day I try to get a little stronger and to do something I didn't do the day before. I'm still sleeping only a few hours at night. The rest of the time I feel as if I'm in limbo. I am aware of my surroundings and have no problem having a conversation, but I find reading and anything that requires me to concentrate difficult.

The physiotherapist arrives with an enormous package wrapped in brown paper. It feels like Christmas. Out come the crutches. She sets them to the correct height and I watch like an excited child. Carefully I put the stump of my arm on the rest. The thick bandage around my arm offers some protection. With her steadying my shoulders, I start to move cautiously around the room. We emerge into the corridor. I don't have any shoes. There is still a thick bandage around the flash burn on my ankle, so I probably wouldn't get a shoe on anyway. "Take small steps," she says. "You can't risk falling over yet."

I am forced to admit that it was harder than I thought it would be.

The physio sensibly takes the crutches away and hides them until I have had a few more supervised sessions. Gradually we go farther and farther down the corridor and eventually I reach the hospital entrance.

As a child, when things were not going well, I used to thank God for the fact that I had two arms and two legs. Now I am even more grateful for the fact that at least I still have one of each.



The hardest test: Chris prepares to run the London Marathon in 1996

TOMORROW

Kidnapped in Cambodia: 'The Khmer Rouge are running towards us waving their weapons. We are surrounded. I hope to God nobody starts shooting'

shimmers in the downdraft and we start rising above the trees. The noise is deafening. The medic is by my side and starts to open his orange bag. He gets out two drip lines and two clear plastic bags of Ringers solution. He unzips an inner pocket, removes a shiny metal hook and carefully loops it through the radio headset hook on the roof.

I look out of the window and watch the trees fly past beneath us. We are flying over the bush. We still have a long way to go. I force myself to lie still. I'm getting weaker and weaker. All I want to do is go to sleep and escape from this.

I turn my head back to the medic. He's put the needles in my elbow joints and I didn't even feel them. All I want to do is cry "Water. Water. Please give me water" but I can't speak. My throat is too dry and my voice doesn't work. I'm worried. In books and films people cry for water just before they die from traumatic injury.

The trees rush past the side windows, then I look up at the sky. I turn back as the medic turns the drip on. Wait. I don't think he's run them through. If he hasn't, the air from the lines will probably kill me. I can't afford to take the chance. I sit up and try to explain but when I speak, nothing happens. My voice still isn't working. I point. He looks at me sympathetically and pats my shoulder. He thinks I'm delirious, shocked out of my wits. He tries to lie me back down. I try to resist, then realise how weak I am.

I have no choice. I lie back. He reaches again for the switch. There's only one thing I can do. I'm fighting for my life. I sit up and lash out with my left hand. Then I pull the line from the inside of my right elbow with my left hand. My right hand doesn't work so I bite the hard plastic end of the needle and pull my arm away. It comes out; I let go with my teeth and watch it drop on to my dirty, bloodstained overalls.

> It's like someone's poured petrol down my gullet

I have to put out the fire in my throat. Ringers solution is isotonic: the same concentration as blood. It's absorbed almost immediately through the gut wall. I have no stomach injuries, so I can drink. It's not standard medical procedure, but I feel like I'm dying from lack of fluid. I've never been closer to the edge of panic.

I hold my right arm awkwardly to the side and reach up with my left. The bag is soft and warm. I push it up and off the loop. Out of the corner of my eye I see the pilot turn his head, wondering what's going on. I'm sorry I can't explain. My mind races. I didn't know I could think this fast. The inferno in my throat is consuming me. I think my head is about to explode.

I am moving my left hand towards my mouth. I watch the liquid in the clear plastic get closer. It is the elixir of life. I bite through the plastic and the warm liquid floods into my mouth. I tip my head back and gulp greedily. Relief floods through me. It's better than diving into a cool, blue pool on a scorching day.

We touch down. Rupert watches and waits. The engine becomes quiet and the rotors stop. He bends down, leans forward and runs under the rotors to the door. He opens it and says: "Don't worry mate, we'll soon be sitting down having a beer and a chat somewhere cool." I'm lucky he's switched on. I'm doubly fortunate because he's our best medic.

As they lift me out I feel weak and tired, but I have to know. "Do you think I'm going to die?"

"No. You just won't be quite as pretty as you used to be."

I've never been called pretty before and it's not high on my list of priorities, so that's all right.

The hospital is the enormous single-storey concrete building near by. They put me on a battered trolley and wheel me in. They cut off my clothes. I hear the scissors. They examine the wounds and search for other injuries that are not immediately apparent. They keep talking but I can't hear what people are saying. All these things seem to be happening around me.

Rupert goes to check aircraft availability. The nurse says: "We will stabilise you and fly you out as soon as we can."

A few minutes later someone says: "Don't worry, you'll be fine. Now we're giving you a general anaesthetic. You won't feel any more pain. You will be OK, don't worry." That's what I used to say to sick animals as I stroked them while the vet was putting them down.

I see a small hypodermic, held in an anonymous surgical glove, approaching my forearm. I don't feel the injection. The smell of disinfectant fills my nostrils. I'm tired, more tired than I thought . . .

"Mr Moon." A man's voice.

"Mr Moon, can you hear me?"

It must be the doctor. I try to speak but only manage to groan. My eyes are too heavy to open.

I force a shaky reply. "Yes."

"You're in hospital in South Africa, Mr Moon. You were injured in an explosion. Do you remember?"

"Yes. I had my lower right leg blown off."

"That's right. I'm the surgeon looking after you and I have to tell you that I have just amputated your right hand four inches above the wrist. There was a remote chance we could have saved it but it would probably never have functioned. Reconstruction surgery would have taken more than two years and it was likely that it would then have had to be amputated anyway."

I am curiously relieved. He's told the truth straight away and I still have a life. I want to get out of here as soon as I can and get back to work. I don't want to spend the next two years in limbo. It's far better to get rid of it now than mess around. I've heard people get phantom pain after an amputation. That's why my hand hurts. I say: "Thank you. I want to get back to work as soon as I can."

● *Extracted from* One Step Beyond *by Chris Moon, published by Macmillan, £16.99.* Times *readers can buy it for £14.99 by calling* The Times *Bookshop, 0990-134 459.*

ARTS

Hot from Hollywood: America's Easter weekend blockbuster is reviewed by Giles Whittell. Arts, Pages 32-34

Blair's line of least resistance

The punchline is missing in this improvised Balkan war

History repeats itself. The first time as tragedy, and now as improvisational comedy. The unfolding humanitarian disaster in Kosovo has, certainly, had the tragic quality of inevitability. It would not have required Themistoclean foresight to recognise that Slobodan Milosevic would respond to bombing with an intensification of his ethnic cleansing. But if the butcher of the Balkans has played true to stereotype there has been no sense that the ditherer of Downing Street has been sticking to any script. It seems uncomfortably as though Tony Blair has been making it up as he goes along.

Improvisation is, of course, an invaluable part of the repertoire of the performer. And in *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, Channel Four succeeded in building an appreciative audience for improv. At the ring of Clive Anderson's buzzer, the performers would act out a cocktail party scene as though it had been directed by Ingmar Bergman, then *buzz* John Ford, and then *buzz* Quentin Tarantino.

Now, at the drop of a Nato bomb, Tony Blair acts out the part of war leader in the style of Gladstone, then *boom* Thatcher, and then *boom* Churchill. Although it seems, at the moment, as though he is closer to being the Churchill of Gallipoli rather than D-Day.

When Nato started its assault on Serbia we were assured that this was a humanitarian effort and Slobo would buckle in days. Subsequently we were told that we were fighting in the national interest to secure regional stability, and we had better prepare for a long haul. After this weekend, we are no longer restricting ourselves to an intervention based on Gladstonian compassion, let alone a Thatcherite fight for our national interest. "This is now," Mr Blair informed readers of *The Sun* "a battle between good and evil." Along the corridors of Downing Street echo the words of Churchill, "upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation".

Yet in this Manichean struggle, between not just a dictatorship and an alliance of democracies, but between "democracy and dictatorship" itself, as the Prime Minister argued in *The Sunday Telegraph*, our leaders are prepared to sacrifice everything but the good opinion of the focus groups. Mr Blair is fighting his war on two fronts, an air offensive in the Balkans and a holding operation with Middle England. How else to explain the refusal to consider any commitment of ground troops, and the insistence that everything be done to help the refugees except offer them proper refuge?

The polls may suggest that there is support for intervention on the ground. But surveys also show that there is deep wariness at the thought of British soldiers dying to keep Pec ethnically Albanian. Mr Blair seems to regard the headline support for committing ground troops as he did the superficial support in previous electoral campaigns for tax rises. Once public attitudes are properly explored the idealism evaporates. And not just among the electorate. The improvisational Prime Minister, who has moulded his act to the audience, dares not educate the public in the hard truths of war. Nor does he challenge the limits of our compassion. So, instead of providing a home for huddled masses we have a groan, and muddled thinking.

We are asked to believe that air power alone will cause Milosevic to wobble. We are asked to accept that, in Mr Blair's own words, Nato will "drive . . . the Serbian army from Kosovo" without its forces ever setting foot in the province. And we are invited to collude in the belief that the Kosovans will happily return to their devastated homeland once we have declared it a "safe haven".

This is not so much improvisation, as dangerous invention, no longer comedy but folly to which the hollowest laugh cannot do justice. Short of Hiroshima, and I trust we are a long way short of that, no conflict has been concluded with aerial bombardment. Even then, the Japan which sued for peace had seen its armies crushed on the ground.

No matter how successful this air offensive is, and we must pray for its success, can it really not be augmented by the threat of action on the ground? Would not the very act of building up our forces in Macedonia act as a more powerful signal of our seriousness than the bombardment of Fleet Street with signed philippics from No 10? And would we not be better able to persuade Kosovans to return to their homeland if we were prepared to deploy not just bombers but troops to secure its integrity? Ask the Kurds how effective are their safe havens secured from the air and the graves give their own mute answer.

Michael Gove

But the commitment of ground troops, what one might call, without apology to Margaret Thatcher, the resolute approach, requires something new from our current leaders. It is something they seem incapable of giving — a lead. We have a Prime Minister who can feel our pain, but not steel us to endure it. Having abandoned the rhetoric of sacrifice somewhere on the road from John Smith's grave, Mr Blair has to improvise a new style of political leadership. Our strung-out Premier will not cease from mental fight, but he lets the sword sleep in his hand.

Without a willingness to drive the Serbian army out at gunpoint we face, at best, the prospect not of a liberated Kosovo, but a partitioned one. If, after he has finished his ethnic cleansing, Milosevic chooses, himself, to improvise and offer us a new peace deal with a carved-up Kosovo, what evidence is there that Nato will stand firm? And when the world looks at this new division, and asks whose line is it anyway, what will our ever-inventive Prime Minister say then?

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Speech impediments

The ancient myth of Babel lives on in the killing fields of Kosovo

They think they have dug up the Tower of Babel. What could be more spookily appropriate to this Easter? The word is that Michael Saunders, a classicist, concludes from new Nasa photographs and reinterpreted biblical texts that the legendary tower was not in Mesopotamia as previously assumed, but by the Black Sea.

If so, I hope it becomes a place of penitential pilgrimage, because nothing could be more apt as we squabble into a new century. In my school the Babel story was not much dwelt upon in RE — possibly because the Modern Languages department did not want us noticing that its moral seems to be that foreign languages are a punishment sent by God. So I looked it up over Easter.

It is one of those capricious, unpalatable incidents in Genesis which brings to mind the story told in the trade about a biographer of Evelyn Waugh. Fresh from that task, the hardy writer was commissioned to work on a children's Bible: it is reported that at one point she muttered: "I thought there was nobody worse than Waugh, but the God of the Old Testament runs him pretty close." Certainly His punishments often took the form of curmudgeonly frustration of human initiative.

The story tells of the days when "The whole earth was of one language and one speech". Wanderers arriving at the plain of Shinar decided to build a tower whose top might reach to Heaven. God, disliking this arrogance, came down to "confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech". So the confused new tribes scattered, each talking their own language and regarding the utterances of everyone else as so much gibberish. Think of it: proto-Serbian, early Croat, seeds of Albanian, Gujerati, Hindi, Russian, Hutu, Tutsi, English, Welsh — scattering across the world, to grow into cultures and loyalties which would set the sons and daughters of Adam at one another's throats for ten thousand years. The correct theological response is that mankind deserved it; nonetheless the words "dirty trick" spring to mind.

Like all the best myths, Babel dramatises an unappealing aspect of ourselves, and expresses the eternal bafflement at the failure of the human race to behave with sense or even real self-interest. The early chapters of Genesis emphasise unity: the careful and much-parodied lineage tracing every tribe back to Adam. The moment of Babel — told with tantalising brevity — turns a close society with a well-organised building project into a disorganised, squabbling rabble who give up the job and scatter to different territories because they literally can't get any sense out of one another. The myth answers the question "Why are we like this?" with the usual answer: that we separated ourselves from the will of God.

But you do not need to believe in God to feel the frustration: *why are we like this?* For centuries humane philosophers have bewailed our capacity for wasting effort on conflict when a fragment of the cost could have funded prosperous co-operation. Very few wars are actually fought for survival, and united societies have flourished under extreme privation. War sets progress back: in the Yugoslav context this is illustrated by a history of the Yugo car, a Tito export whose parts came from every corner of the federation, with Serb steel rolling on Bosnian wheels with Croatian brake-linings and Montenegran seats, or whatever. OK, they were awful cars, but it was a start. Now the industry and the profits are gone.

Libby Purves

Looking at the present set of international crises it is unbearably frustrating to contemplate just how much could have been done for the countries bordering Serbia with the money currently exploding over Belgrade at five million dollars a bang; or to consider what the Balkan groups themselves could have achieved in peace. Meanwhile, better not even to think how many wells could be dug and farms founded by the muscle currently wasted by the roaming killers of the Interahamwe in central Africa, or how much more desert might have flowered if Arabs and Israelis lived in trust, or what Northern Ireland could become if its people would only let it.

These are hopelessly naive reflections. We all know the answer: people aren't like that. People side with their own, and define their own in rigid ways. The Russians side with the Serbs because they are "theirs". The Serbs think everyone is against them, and considering what happened to them in Croatia, they are not entirely deluded. Even our own, supposedly race-blind Nato politics are visibly tainted with the desire to back people who look like us. We are more active over human rights in Kosovo than in Algeria, or China, or Burma; the justification of physical proximity does not stand up. If it were possible to do a controlled experiment I suspect that the Anglo-Saxon and Northern European leaders — and their electors — would always find excuses to help white victims before black, and that among the white victims they would prefer those who use the Roman alphabet to those who write Cyrillic or Arabic script. Remember the run-up to the Falklands war, and that flood of emotive journalism about the British ethos of the islands, and the outrage of having foreign orders barked there?

These instincts will always be with us, underlying everything that we do. The honest thing is to confront them frankly, and recognise unhelpful impulses. This applies as much to racism as to other conflicts. The other day a newspaper reported that a group of scientists interpret hostility to racially-mixed marriages in terms of Stone Age survival mechanisms. At a primitive level, it was biologically inadvisable to have a white skin in hot southern climates, because you need melanin for protection, and equally dangerous to be black in the grey north because white skins capture more vitamins from sunlight. Hence, a biological instinct not to mate, for fear of producing young with less capacity to survive.

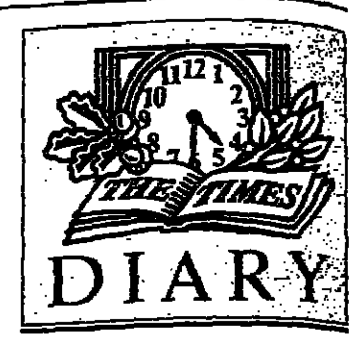
In the age of sunscreen creams and an indoor life any such instinct is as redundant as the flight-or-fight mechanism is to a railway commuter. But as I discussed the report with a pale-skinned friend who has been happily married to a Nigerian doctor for 20 years, she immediately said: "Oh, yes. An anthropologist told me about that when we got engaged. The biological interdict." Had it worried her? "No, the opposite. It swept away the last doubts. I had been wondering about a few uneasy feelings I had, but once I identified them as Stone Age remnants, I could tidy them away."

Identify, admit, confess the sin of Babel, and it fades. The new millennium is not without hope. The creative vigour of melting-pot communities has been proven over and over again in this century, from New York to Cardiff Bay. Air travel confronts ordinary people with the humanity of foreigners, and the e-mail generation holds conversations across the most unpromising borders. My most interesting letters of the past week have been from families who, ever since some bygone Yugotours holiday, have kept in touch with Serb or Kosovan friends. Unless bigots take charge, communities rub along fine even in poor regions.

Tony Allen-Mills, of *The Sunday Times*, reminded us this weekend of the life and death of Bogoljug Staletovic, a notably even-handed and sociable Serbian police commander in a southern Kosovo town. As the situation grew tenser, Staletovic tried, said a witness, "to persuade his friends in both groups not to get angry with each other. Nobody wanted trouble. This part of Kosovo always had a peaceful life". It was the Kosovo Liberation Army who ambushed and killed Staletovic. He was only 31; seven thousand mourners followed him, including Albanians. But from that time onward, fear in the town increased.

That Staletovic is dead is part of the disaster. But that he lived, and is mourned, is part of the hope. There will always be individuals who recognise that law of Babel is an evil nonsense and refuse to submit to it. But if we are to join them we have to suppress the Babel instinct in ourselves: starting with the admission that even in a mess like this, there are no demons but only potential friends.

comment@the-times.co.uk



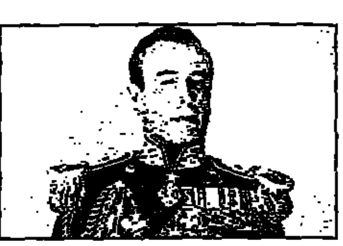
Lost at sea?

THE alleged disappearance of the ringleaders of a mutiny aboard a destroyer captained by Lord Mountbatten during the Second World War is to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence. It is to launch the inquiry because veterans are demanding to know about the crewmen's fate.

In 1941, *HMS Jackal* was requested to help in the defence of Plymouth by employing its anti-aircraft guns against incoming German planes. As the ship fired off every shell and bullet on board, its crewmen, many of whom were from Plymouth, watched the city's destruction.

Once the action was over, the seamen asked to go ashore to see how their families had fared. Mountbatten (below), however, turned down their request and ordered the ship out to sea.

In protest, the ratings slammed the watertight doors and effectively went on strike. Mountbatten relented later that day, but when the ship arrived in Gibraltar a few weeks later, the ringleaders were flown home by the military and never seen again by their ship mates.



A SERBIAN protester in Parliament Square with a placard urged Robin Cook over the weekend to "make love not war".

■ JACK STRAW'S campaign against institutional racism does not extend to Labour itself. Just as the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence murder showed that the Race Relations Act did not apply to the police, so two industrial tribunals against the party have highlighted that it also is excluded from the legislation.

Raghib Ahsan, a former Birmingham councillor, has followed Neelam Bakshi, a counterpart in Scotland, in alleging that the party has acted in a racially discriminatory fashion towards them. They are both backed by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Ken Livingstone says Labour is actively fighting the cases by exploiting its exemption from the Act. "Why is the Labour leadership," he asks, "refusing to accept that the Act should apply to the Labour Party itself?"

BELGIUM this month joined Egypt and Jamaica as countries where the Foreign Office advises British tourists to take care.

■ LIKE a Victorian covering up the legs of a piano, one of Britain's latest Oscar winners has concealed the nudity of his award. Stephen Warbeck, who received the prized statue in Hollywood for composing the music for *Shakespeare in Love*, has been clothing the trophy in Barbie doll clothes borrowed from his children. "I looked at the Oscar and thought, I don't like the look of this thing much," he says. "He's been wearing a purple dress for some of his time in Britain."



MADELEINE ALBRIGHT'S latest strategy for winning the war in the Balkans: a new hairdo. In very public view, the Secretary of State yesterday sat under the dryer at Hair Design in Georgetown, surrounded by a posse of Secret Service agents.

■ MINIMALISM has failed to add value to Peter Mandelson's home. The estate agency board has been standing outside the former Trade Secretary's house in Northumberland Place for two and a half months. A similar but more homely property down the road and on the market for an equivalent period has just been snapped up.

DURING its latest stock-taking, the London Dungeon has discovered that it is missing a replica skull, chastity belt and severed head of King Charles I.

EDWARD WELSH

'It may seem inclusive, but the next royal wedding risks disastrous public relations, by mixing the public uncomfortably with the relations'

Helen Rumbelow

Love may grow from intimacy, but it is in the nature of wedding vows that they must be before an audience. As Dr Johnson observed of executions, there's no point if they're not public. But even for the least private of this year's weddings, the marriage of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, there can be such a thing as too public an avowal.

Those planning this royal wedding in the expectation that it will, unlike others, actually have a fairytale ending would do better to go back to the traditional stories than substitute them with publicity techniques learnt from *Hello!* Prince Charming naturally invited everyone in all the land to cheer the good match he made in Cinderella, but he invented strict quantity controls to keep the actual ceremony to his bride and close family. Instead, Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones have invited 500 of their closest friends, and then decided to let the public scramble in an unseemly draw for the final 2,000 places inside Windsor Castle.

It may seem inclusive, but the next royal wedding risks disastrous public relations, by mixing the public uncomfortably with the relations. And even before the relations object, the public will. The national tradition, duty even, of using queues as a means of fairly distributing anything from stamps to a glance at celebrity has been wiped out with one stroke of Sophie's wand. Gone is the loyal fan, a man in a Union Jack hat, with warm sandwiches and cold sleeping-bag. In his place appears a new and increasingly common kind of guest, with the glazed and acquisitive face of someone entered in a prize draw. They will be familiar figures to one of the couple's first invitees, Chris Tarrant from *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* It is a decision revealing of a modern Britain, in which lottery culture has overtaken fairness and romance. Like the lottery, those who win a place at the wedding can expect the envy of those they leave behind and the condescension of the old money with whom they aspire to rub shoulders. .

For those guests who are there by the lottery of noble birth can hardly be expected to savour sharing their celebration with those who won a lucky ticket. Hanging themselves on bunting would appear more attractive than sitting in an enclosure with 2,000 subscribers to *Majesty* magazine sweating patriotically into their flasks of hot tea.

The future Princess delayed and delayed her engagement. And in this confused People's Wedding we can, perhaps, see why. It was not because of any wavering doubts about the manly Prince Edward and his passion for real tennis, but because she did not know in which of her rivals' footsteps to follow.

First there was the People's Princess, Diana's spectacularly camp taffeta-fest. Pearly queens and gay men led the throngs adoring her from London streets, but respected that the marriage was a private affair only to be viewed on tea towels and ceremonial thimbles after the event. Then came the Paparazzi Princess, the stately Spice Girl Mel B. She commanded not only that all her guests wear white, but at least £350,000 for the exclusive photographs.

And in reaction to the above came the Publican's Princess, an adorably down-home affair from Kate Winslet, the actress who tipped off only a few photographers to come to her local and watch her splatter cheap beer down her ridiculously expensive couture gown. The public relations girl watched these successes and wished to herself that she could have all three. How quickly she had forgotten the lesson she had learnt from her engagement with Edward: be careful what you wish for.

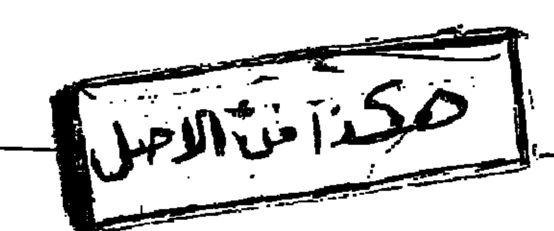
What results is a mixture of all these modern myths. She attempts to put a bouncer on the portcullis of the castle: rejecting most but allowing a few in from the crowd. But you cannot have your wedding cake and eat it. Issuing some golden tickets to the public and leaving the rest clamouring at the gate will cause more anger than if no public tickets had been issued at all. Although Ms Rhys-Jones is a publicity maven she has yet to realise the fastest way to turn the public away from the royals is to allow them to feel they have a right to get close, and then snatch the dream from all but a random few.

The magic secret of enduring as a modern royal must be to remain exclusive. No "People's Weddings", no inner pens for the lucky few, no prize draws, no one to breathe down the back of a betrothed's neck as vows are said, no blurring of fans and friends. Then they will fulfil the fairytale monarchy of real populist dreams.

Once the thin end of this wedge prises open the chapel door, then what next? The birth of the first fruit of their union screened on *Live and Kicking*?

helen.rumbelow@the-times.co.uk





A MORAL DUTY

Nato must quicken the pace of war and aid to war's victims

Whatever the spats between Clare Short and Jack Straw over the Kosovan refugees or growing divisions within Nato over America's proposed airlift, the immediate task is to protect and feed the refugees camped in misery along the Kosovan border. Nato estimates that the number of displaced Kosovans is now approaching a million; some 44,000 left yesterday alone, and a further 300,000 are expected to struggle into Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro within the next few days. Ethnic cleansing continues apace: at this rate, Kosovo will be emptied of all Albanians within about two weeks — the swiftest and most brutal displacement in Europe since the Second World War.

In their squalid camps, they are at least safe from assault and the systematic killing of young men by the para-military Serb gangs now torching their villages. But their lives are still at risk. Hunger, exhaustion and disease are taking their toll. They camp in the open, in fields churned to mud and covered with faeces. There is no water, warmth or food. The elderly are bewildered, the children terrified, the sick unable to get attention. Dysentry and cholera attack as relentlessly as Serb guns.

As the numbers grow, so do fears and resentment in the precarious countries to which the Kosovans are fleeing. All three are among the most vulnerable in Europe, desperately poor, beset by their own ethnic and tribal conflicts and with shaky governments easily overthrown by populists exploiting the present crisis. Macedonia is threatening to close its borders altogether if the Kosovans are not quickly dispersed. President Djukanovic of Montenegro, courageously defying the hardliners in Belgrade, is still offering sanctuary to the refugees but fears that President Milosevic is plotting a coup to replace him with a placeman of his own. Albania can no longer cope with the numbers, and Nato is having to send in some 6,000 troops to take over policing and food distribution.

Nato insists that as the weather clears, and the destruction of Yugoslav bridges and fuel and ammunition dumps bites, the Serb terror in Kosovo will be slowed and eventually halted. For many, it will be too late. Tony Blair was right to insist that the attacks must be stepped up. British Tornados based in Germany took part in the air raids for the first time at the weekend; two battalions of American Apache helicopters, designed to attack ground forces, will soon arrive in Tirana. The Nato aim remains consistent: to force the Serb troops out of Kosovo, allow the refugees to return and police their safety with a Nato peacekeeping force.

That aim, however, is still far from being achieved. It will take a lot more firepower, more flexible tactics and more time to break Serbian intransigence. And neither the refugees nor the host countries have time. Even after a ceasefire, few will return unless a sizeable military force clears the way and escorts them home.

The Americans have proposed a massive airlift to relieve the refugee plight. Most of Europe is ready to take in thousands, but Britain and France are reluctant, insisting that moving out the Albanians would be to connive in ethnic cleansing. The political objections are valid, but the humanitarian need is overwhelming. Safe havens would be a better option, but not one that is speedily available. Accommodating the sick, the children and the elderly is a moral as well as political imperative. Tomorrow and later this week Britain will meet its European Union, Contact Group and G8 partners. It should set an example of compassion as well as military resolution.

MR ZHU GOES TO WASHINGTON

Hard choices that Beijing cannot postpone

Dark economic clouds are gathering over China. Recent weeks have brought unwelcome news for China's foremost modernisers, Zhu Rongji, who this week makes his first visit to the United States as Prime Minister. Having dodged Asia's financial storms for two years, China seems targeted for a downpour. And whether it is headed for deep trouble, or just a muddy fork in the capitalist road, one thing seems clear: state-directed "socialism with Chinese characteristics" is close to its limits. Hard decisions cannot be ducked much longer.

Chinese claims of 7.8 per cent GDP growth last year are exaggerated. Foreign direct investment fell 9.5 per cent in January and February, the worst dip since Deng Xiaoping's reforms began in 1978. China's banks are deeply insolvent. Asia's crisis has hit exports hard. Even the party's insistence that the currency will not be devalued is softening. Although the yuan is sheltered by great walls of control, economists with the ear of Mr Zhu now suggest that devaluation *is* no longer unthinkable, even if it may not come soon.

For two decades, China's reforms have delivered new wealth and social peace. As growth lags, that peace becomes more fragile: hinterlands brood in rural backwardness, coastal cities fret over the millions of potentially idle migrants in their midsts. Although growth, not Marx, is China's cure-all, grave defects exist; most predate Asia's crisis; and vital structural reforms have yet to be addressed.

Half measures, cover-up, and muddle are all too much the norm. Shrewd and worldly, Mr Zhu grasps the need for bank reform and the closure of unviable state-owned enterprises (SOEs). President Jiang and party elders tremble at the political risks. As the tenth anniversary of Tiananmen comes near, real reform seems riskier than doing nothing.

The result is a policy at loggerheads with itself. A 270 billion yuan (more than £20 billion) recapitalisation of China's banks is in play. But even this large sum is not enough to do the job. Bank liabilities now equal 140 per cent of GDP, and are growing at 30 per cent a year. Estimates of non-performing bank loans range from 24 per cent to 40 per cent. A fifth of China's GDP will be needed to clean up this mess. The political cost of depriving party bosses of the power to direct credit could be even bigger.

For fear of increasing unemployment, hundreds of state-owned companies, the source of most bad loans, remain untouched. Thousands of new plants have bloomed, many of them merely adding to excess capacity which, in video recorders, to take one example, stands at 74 per cent.

Reform is still alive. The People's Bank of China is supposedly insulated from party interference. The People's Liberation Army has surrendered most of its factories. Smaller firms have been given their head; many are sacking workers. But all reformers recognise the serious problems ahead. Freedoms given with one hand can be taken back with the other. Because Mr Zhu is anxious to speed up growth, banks are told to pay new credits to state firms, making bad worse. State spending will increase by 20 per cent this year. China can afford this, as its national debt is virtually nil, but it is no way to build sustainable growth and Mr Zhu knows it.

These shocks push China's leaders toward fresh reforms, but the consequences scare them. In hushed tones, formerly taboo words such as privatisation and tariff reform are muttered in Beijing. But such necessary ideas are politically sensitive and hard to push forward when civil unrest and loss of central control are always the bogeys to be feared.

MINE OF INFORMATION

The relics of Britain's industrial past must be preserved

The structures which link the present to the past are often delicate. With the death of each human generation, a small bridging strut breaks. With the fading of each memory, the more it matters that physical reminders remain. That is why proposals that a South Wales ironworks and mining area be preserved as a World Heritage Site should be welcomed. Only through visiting places such as this can Britain's young come to understand the industrial foundations on which their future is laid.

Britain was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution and the sweeping technological changes that its innovations wrought. A limited agrarian society harnessed the power of manufacturing capacities and grew into a profitable force. Writers such as William Cobbett celebrated the ingenuity of a new generation when he wrote in his *Letter to the Luddites of Nottingham* that "machines are the produce of the mind of man; their existence distinguishes the civilised man from the savage." But later authors came to discover the grimmer outcomes of industrial growth: poverty, pollution and depression. D.H. Lawrence, Charles Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell dealt with the human face of a new type of suffering spawned in factories and pits.

These are images that pervade the modern mind. One sided accounts stalk the memory like Lowry's matchstick men. Yet the full portrait of the industrial worker combines a complex blend of dreams and despair. The industrial era was a confusing synthesis of voluntary escape from rural poverty, disciplined compliance to a new drudgery and a changed sense of the human dignity of labour.

The four massive hillside furnaces and the once famous Big Pit of the Blaenavon site in South Wales should be preserved so that future generations might understand some of these paradoxes. Though many have grandparents (and parents) still alive today who mastered the skills of the miner or iron worker, to many others these skills can seem as remote as the Stone Age arrow maker's craft. Memories should not be taken for granted. History soon consumes its inheritance if it is not put in trust.

Several other British areas are also being considered as World Heritage Sites — the New Forest for instance, Shakespeare's Stratford. All have their merits. All preserve some unspoiled portion of a landscape or culture. But the Blaenavon site with its outmoded machinery and its stretch of canal, its relics of a horse drawn railway and battered warehouses, preserve a distinctively human phase of Britain's history. This Monmouthshire site speaks as much of the people who once lived there as it does of the place itself and should be treasured all the more highly for that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Escalation of the conflict in Kosovo

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, I note with concern the assertions that Nato credibility is now at stake, thereby justifying a further escalation of violence against Serbia, not excluding a ground assault and other destructive measures.

If Nato's credibility can survive only by being watered with Serbian blood, is it worth preserving, or indeed preservable? Can it not already have been irreparably destroyed by the decision — taken virtually unilaterally by the US — to transform it from a uniquely successful defensive pact whose objectives had already been achieved to an instrument for politico-military policy?

If Nato cannot be phased out as honourably redundant before its American caretakers employ it in fresh adventures unrelated to its original defensive purposes, should not Britain, one of the original founders, resign and return to bilateral policymaking? Otherwise, not only Nato's credibility will be in question, but Britain's.

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED SHERMAN
(Chairman, Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies),
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7 3HU.
shermania@compuserve.com
April 3.

From Mr D. M. G. Bird

Sir, Few, hopefully, in this country would cavil with the need to adopt the strongest possible measures to overcome the appalling evil perpetrated by Milosevic.

At the same time, the public would be justified in imagining that our leaders would take into account the lessons of history and benefit from expert military, diplomatic and political advice. Sadly, they seem to have ignored both, for their actions have resulted in what appears to be a horrifying fiasco, with the prospect of escalating misery, financial cost and loss of life while we attempt to extricate ourselves. The mounting criticism that they did not think their actions through seems to be completely justified.

One can only pray that these military experts have in fact a master plan to put in ground forces, and that our political leaders have the stomach to tell the public that this is the only solution to relieving the misery of the Kosovo Albanians, and *possibly* hastening the end to this tragic fiasco.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BIRD,
The Malt House, Hinton,
Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9HZ.
April 4.

From Mr Daniel Bradley

Sir, The Reverend Humphrey Southern (letter, April 1) contrasts, unfairly in my view, the consideration we showed to Iraq by refraining from attacking during Ramadan with our readiness to bomb Serbian military targets during Holy Week.

Nato's urgent and overriding need is to prevent further murder and dispossession of Albanian Kosovans. One minute utilised to save human life is surely an act of Christian charity.

Yours faithfully,
DAN BRADLEY,
54 Torkington Street,
Stockport SK3 9JS.

From the Director of the United Nations Information Centre

Sir, It is not true that the UN secretariat has made no comment on the situation in Kosovo (letter, April 1). The Secretary General Kofi Annan himself has made several statements. On March 24 he said "the moment was a grave one for the international community" and deeply regretted the Yugoslav authorities' rejection of a political settlement.

On March 30 he expressed "profound outrage" at "reports of a vicious and systematic campaign of 'ethnic cleansing' conducted by Serbian military and paramilitary forces in ... Kosovo".

He pointed out that the UN, with UNHCR in the lead, was doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering of Kosovan refugees. The UN is also monitoring the political and military situation and is in close contact with Nato.

Sincerely,
AHMAD FAWZI, Director,
United Nations Information Centre,
Millbank Tower (21st Floor),
21-24 Millbank, SW1P 4QH.
April 1.

From Dr Clive Layton

Sir, You published today (April 2) a letter about the Kosovo problem from James Tulloch (aged 13) which is a model of clarity. My appreciation of the serious point made was clouded by the need you felt to give the writer's age.

Are we intended to take the letter less seriously because he is aged 13? Or are we meant to be awestruck by the intellect of one so young? The inclusion of the writer's age is a distraction and represents an example of ageism that should not be acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE LAYTON (aged 54),
Woodview, Abbess Roding,
Ongar, Essex CM5 0JJ.
layton@softlay-software.demon.co.uk
April 2.

Second chamber's democratic role

From Lord Skidelsky

Sir, The Conservative MP Andrew Tyrie believes that "in the 21st century only a chamber backed by the legitimacy of the ballot box can hope to command the public consent required to fulfil a constitutional role" (article, March 26; leading article, April 1). The choice, he wrote, is between "bicameral democracy and the de facto uni-cameralism that the Lords Bill will probably bequeath us". "Bicameral democracy" is needed to counter the domination of Parliament by the Executive.

This familiar argument ignores the way the British constitution works. Governments rely on a disciplined party majority to get their business through the House of Commons. The weak legitimacy of the House of Lords ensures that they get their legislation through the Lords as well — albeit improved and amended — without the necessity of a whipped majority there.

If the second chamber acquires the "legitimacy of the ballot box" governments will need to ensure majorities there to get their business through Parliament. How would this weaken the power of the Executive? The flaw in Tyrie's argument is that it is precisely the weak legitimacy of the Lords which makes our constitution work. I have never heard a convincing answer to this objection.

We can all think of electoral arrangements (eg, staggered voting) which will get us out of this bind. But in so far as the object of all such devices is to make it more difficult for the government to get its business through Parliament, they will be resisted by any government of any party: which is why they will remain conversation pieces.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,
House of Lords.
April 1.

From Mr Leonard Allen

Sir, Our second parliamentary chamber (letters, March 30 and 31) is unique. Its membership is drawn from every profession and field of human endeavour. Many have achieved distinction in their chosen occupation. Some are of international repute.

The crossbenchers bring their own independent contribution and the hereditary peers their own style and approach; many are from families that have served the State for generations, even centuries. There is a degree of freedom from party restraint that is refreshing and, on occasions, extremely valuable.

There is no way such a forum could be brought about by a general election. And yet, for the sake of some theory of democracy, or from envy or from outdated class prejudice, we are about to destroy this chamber of all the talents.

We must be mad!

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD ALLEN,
8 Carmel Court,
Highfield, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire SL7 2LF.
April 4.

From Mr William Hutton

Sir, I wonder what percentage of the electorate would be prepared to vote for noble members of a second chamber who might be too clearly seen as there to second-guess those who are elected as members of the Commons.

Perhaps the commission on the future of the Lords would be well advised to take soundings on the likely complicity of the electorate in their proposed findings? I suspect, particularly in the light of the emerging parliaments and assemblies in the United Kingdom, that there could be widespread apathy in voting intentions for a House of Lords. Indeed, there could be so little interest that the result of change might bring our hard-won democratic processes into disrepute.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM HUTTON,
8 Sutherland Avenue, Petts Wood,
Orpington, Kent BR5 1QZ.
April 3.

National Trust praised

From Sir Francis Dashwood

Sir, There has been criticism of the National Trust and its respect for donors' wishes following its decision not to renew its licences for staghunting in the West Country (report, October 2, 1998; letters, November 12, 17, 30 and January 7).

However, my experience since 1963, when I took over the lease of my family home, West Wycombe Park, which my father gave to the trust in 1944, confirms that it does its utmost to abide by donors' wishes.

During the 36 years I have spent restoring the interior of the house and the landscape garden to its 18th-century state the National Trust has encouraged me. Now I am about to move out to make way for my son and his family.

I am confident that the trust will continue to abide by my father's wishes as it has assured me, and will treat my son in the same courteous and constructive manner as it has treated me.

The trust's determination to conserve our heritage with the help of its army of enthusiastic volunteers and dedicated management and staff deserves praise and encouragement.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS DASHWOOD,
West Wycombe Park Office,
West Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP14 3AJ.
April 2.

Running the BBC

From Mr David Sullivan Proudfoot

Sir, It will be disastrous for the country, both at home and internationally, if all concerned with the appointment of the BBC's next Director-General share the apathy shown by Antoine Palmer (article, March 30).

The managerial destruction of the BBC can be reversed, and one must pray that the right candidate makes themself available.

I was the BBC's Head of Television Training during 1978-80, after 26 years' work at every level of television drama programme-making. The advertisement for my replacement stated: "Production experience not essential." My job was among the first of many where programme zeal was replaced by administrative aspiration.

Remember the golden triumvirate of Sirs Hugh Carlton-Greene, Huw Wheldon and David Attenborough — all practised broadcasters — and the marvellous programmes they encouraged.

Government and governors take note. Young turks, please step forward.

Yours etc,
DAVID SULLIVAN PROUDFOOT,
Crossbones Cottage,
Grove, Portland,
Dorset DT5 1DA.
starland@surfaid.org
March 30.

Woman in sport

From Miss Laura Stobart

Sir, As a keen (but not necessarily talented) university and friendly-level sportswoman with a passion for football, I have often come up against unhelpful male — and female — attitudes to women's sport (report and Alyson Rudd's article, March 31). I was particularly disappointed in Ms Rudd's call for mixed competition.

Why should women have to compete with men in every arena? Surely it is more exciting watching Venus and Serena Williams slug it out on the tennis court at something like an even level than it would be watching every Sampras serve go past Hingis? And yes, it would matter if "49 times out of 50 a man took gold and silver and a woman took bronze and sixth place".

This would simply demoralise women athletes, reinforce the attitude that women cannot compete with men, and lead to the one woman who did win being held up as masculine (as in many non-sporting male fields).

I am not arguing for total segregation, especially in sports like equestrianism or racing where there is no physical need, or at the friendly level where each may do as they please.

But at the highest level, why not keep it separate, and give young girls somewhere they can aim for the very top — not for a place behind yet another man.

Yours etc,
LAURA STOBART,
31a Rush Hill Road, SW11 5NW.
March 31.

Shakespeare liberties

From Mr Vikram Seth

Sir, I am misquoted in your Diary (March 26) as objecting to Ethan Hawke's rendition of Hamlet's famous soliloquy at a variety performance at the Globe by saying, among other things: "The part about how he might his own quietus make with a bare bodkin — that was gone."

To be fair to Mr Hawke, it was *not* gone. The problem was precisely his insertion of the nonexistent "own".

But every actor fluffs his lines sometimes, and I am pretty sure that Shakespeare's own company took far greater liberties than this.

Yours faithfully,
VIKRAM SETH,
c/o Orion Books,
5 Upper St Martin's Lane,
London WC2H 9EA.
March 26.

Coming and going

From Dr Patrick Harris

Sir, Recently I find that the news programmes spend most of the time forecasting future events while the weather reports spend their time telling me about the weather I have just had.

Yours,
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*patrick@
patrickharris.freeserve.co.uk*
March 31.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Justice of equal age of consent

From the Chair of Christians for Human Rights and others

Sir, The House of Commons has decisively and consistently voted for equality and protection of the vulnerable in the third reading of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill.

The House of Lords must now decide whether it wishes to promote the health and safety of young gay men through equalising the age of consent or continue their criminalisation.

As people of faith committed to social justice, we seek to refocus attention upon the fundamental principles of the Bill. The proposed legislation is not concerned with legalising or promoting particular forms of sexual behaviour but with equalisation under the law and the appropriate protection of those vulnerable to abuse.

Contrary to some of the comments made by the Bill's opponents, nothing in the social justice teachings of our faith traditions can be used to argue against such legislation. The Sexual Offences Bill builds upon a key principle within our faith traditions: that the human person is created with a unique dignity, worthy of respect and equality before the law.

Even if some religious teachings promote the view that homosexual activity, as a matter of choice, is unethical, justice demands the defence of lesbian and gay people's human rights. It is inappropriate to adjudicate on such civil liberties issues solely using personal sexual ethics principles. Opposing the morality of certain sexual practices — the subject of wide debate across a range of theological traditions — ought not to entail collusion with campaigns to maintain discrimination.

Perpetuating inequality in the age of consent places intolerable strains upon families and parents seeking to support their gay and lesbian children. The experience of many parents' support organisations in this field confirms that removal of current inequalities and consequent stress, far from undermining family structures, will actually strengthen them.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PENDERGAST,
Chair, Christians for Human Rights,
MICHAEL BOURKE,
Bishop of Wolverhampton,
GRAHAM DALE,
Director, Christian Socialist Movement,
SUSAN HALEY,
Called To Be One:
Catholic Parents' Network,
RICHARD HOLLOWAY,
Bishop of Edinburgh,
JULIA NEUBERGER,
Chief Executive, The King's Fund,
Christians for Human Rights,
PO Box 24632,
London E9 6XF.
April 4.

Wedding gaffe

From Mr G. F. deC. Sizer

Sir, I read Mr W. H. Henderson's letter (March 31) with such relief — it absolved me, after nearly 60 years, of an awful moral burden.

My wife and I were married in 1939 and I was responsible, in the vestry, for entering on the marriage certificate, under "occupation of father", the description "Assistant Director of Education" — which I thought to be true. Some years afterwards I realised that, although my father had had the closest association with his director, he had in fact been chief clerk to the education committee. Oh, the embarrassment when I realised what I had done.

Now, bless him, Mr Henderson suggests that the President of the European Commission be reclassified as "Director-General, or even Chief Clerk". I approach our diamond wedding with a much lighter heart.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF SIZER,
64 Saint Mary's Road,
Benfleet, Essex SS7 1NN.
April 1.

Harder and harder

From Mr William T. Potter

Sir, Is it a sign of diminishing intellectual powers with advancing years, or am I right in perceiving a marked increase in the difficulty of the clues in *The Times* Two Crossword?

Some of them seem to me to equal, or even surpass, those in the Saturday Crossword.

Yours in puzzlement,
WILLIAM T. POTTER,
6 Higher Down,
Kenton, Exeter, Devon EX6 8NG.
April 5.

Clarification sought

From Mr Anthony P. Moran

Sir, Driving past the main gate of a military establishment recently, I noticed a guard who appeared to be wearing a you-can't-see-me camouflage uniform superimposed upon which was a you-can't-miss-me fluorescent yellow waistcoat.

I wonder if there is an appropriate word or expression for this odd conflict of purpose?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY P. MORAN,
37 Monckton Road,
Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2BG.
April 5.

SOCIAL NEWS

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, trustee, will chair a meeting of The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, at Windsor Castle, at 6.15.

The Prince of Wales will visit Cantraybridge Rural Skills College, Cawdor, Nairn; will visit Hunters of Brora, Sutherland; will visit the Renal and Oncology Departments at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and as patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, will unveil a bench outside the hospital.

University news

London

Royal Holloway College

Appointments

Dr Cynthia Ebinger, BS(Duke), SM MIT, PhD (MIT/Woods Hole), reader, geology, from January 25, 1999.

Dr Andy Field, BSc (City), DPhil (Sussex), lecturer, psychology from September 1, 1998

Dr Peter French, BSc (Kingston), PhD (Reading), lecturer, geography, from September 1, 1998.

Anna Fukshansky, Dr.rer.nat. (Freiburg), lecturer, computer science, from September 1, 1998.

Dr Jocelyn Gamble, BA (Oxford Brookes), MA, PhD (London), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998.

Mr Simon Holt, FRNCM, lecturer, composer in residence, music, from September 16, 1998, to September 30, 2003.

Dr Susan Mandala, BA Carlisle Pennsylvania (US), MPhil (Cambridge), lecturer, English, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2000.

Dr Steven McGuire, BA (Calgary), MA (Toronto), DPhil (Oxon), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998.

Dr Jayalaxshmi Mistry, BSc (London), PhD (London), lecturer, geography from September 1, 1998.

Dr David Morritt, BSc Botany and Zoology (Bristol), PhD Zoology (Bristol), lecturer, biological sciences, from October 1, 1999

Dr Andrew Mountford, BA (Cambridge), PhD (Browne University), lecturer, economics, from September 1, 1998.

Dr Catherine Nash, BA (Nottingham), PhD (Nottingham), lecturer, Geography from September 1, 1998

Dr Gül Berna Ozcan, BSc (Dokuz Eylül), MSc METU, PhD (London), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998

Dr Teresa Peck, BA (Manch), MA, PhD (Texas), CPsychol., Licensed Clinical Psychologist (California), senior lecturer, psychology from September 14, 1998, to September 13, 2002

Dr Tamar Pincus, MSc (Lond), MPhil (Cantab), PhD (London), lecturer, psychology, from September 1, 1998.

Professor Kenneth Pye, BA, MA (Oxon), PhD, ScD (Cantab), chair, Department of Geology, from September 1, 1998.

Dr Jorge Tovar, BSc (Mexico), MSc (Guanajuato, Mexico), PhD molecular biology (Lond), lecturer, biosciences, from Jan 1, 1999

Dr Josephine Whitby, MA (Oxon), PhD (Edinburgh), part-time lecturer in literature of late antiquity and classical antecedents, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2000

Dr Alison Woodcock, BA (Reading), PGCE (Warwick), PhD (Reading), AFBPsS, lecturer, psychology, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2001

Dr Joanne Wright, BA (Joint Hons), (Cantab), MLitt (Aberdeen), PhD (Australian National Univ), senior lecturer, social and political science, from Jan 1, 1999.

Birthdays today

Lord Frederick Windsor is 20.

Other birthdays include:

Mr Franta Belsky, sculptor, 78; Sir Paul Beresford, MP, 53; Miss Joan Bernard, former Principal, Trevelyan College, Durham, 81; Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, trades unionist, 54; Mr Rory Bremner, impressionist, 38; Miss Joan Carlyle, soprano, 68; Mr Bernard Carter, painter and etcher, 79; Mr Harry Conroy, author, 56; Mr Roger Cook, investigative journalist and broadcaster, 56; Mr Paul Daniels, magician, 61; Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer, 89; Mr Julian Faber, former chairman, Willis Faber, 82; Sir Angus Grossart, former chairman of the board of trustees, National Galleries of Scotland, 62; Mr Willis Hall, writer, 70; Professor David Ingram, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent at Canterbury, 72; Sir John Knox, former High Court Judge, 74; the Duke of Montrose, 64; Lord Moore of Wolvercote, 78; the Rev Ian Paisley, MP, MEP, 73; Miss Felicity Palmer, mezzo-soprano, 55; Mr André Previn, KBE, conductor, 70; Sir Marcus Worsley, former Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, 74.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.D. Pickering and Miss S.A.M. Pearson

The engagement is announced between Dean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Pickering, of Limpsfield, Surrey, and Sallie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Pearson, of Shelford, Nottinghamshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Paris, 1671; James Mill, utilitarian philosopher, Logieport, near Montrose, 1773; Alexander Herzen, writer and socialist, Moscow, 1812; Harry Houdini, escapologist, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1874; Anthony Herman Fokker, aviator, aircraft designer, Kederi, Java, 1890.

DEATHS: King Richard I, reigned 1189-99, Chalun, France, 1199; Raphael, painter, Rome, 1520; Albrecht Dürer, painter and engraver, Nuremberg, 1528; Sir Francis Walsingham, statesman, London, 1590; John Stow, antiquary, London, 1605; Sir Seymour Hicks, Fleet, Hampshire, 1949; Jules Bordet, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1919, Brussels, 1961; Igor Stravinsky, composer, New York, 1971.

An earthquake tremor damaged St Paul's Cathedral, 1580.

The Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith at Fayette, New York, 1830.

Robert Peary arrived at the North Pole, 1909.

The United States declared war on Germany, 1917.

Professor Stuart Sutherland

A memorial ceremony celebrating Professor Stuart Sutherland's life will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 3.00pm at The Meeting House, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton. All friends, colleagues and ex-students very welcome. RSVP, if possible: Gay Sutherland, 43a Melford Road, London SE22 0AQ, 0181 299 2323.

Latest wills

Mr Oleg **Prokofiev**, sculptor and painter, and son of the composer, Serge Prokofiev, of London SE3, left estate valued at £4,350,318 net.

Mr Paul Odo **Willert**, oil dealer and art collector, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,260,744 net.

Mr Eprime **Eshag**, economist and fellow of Wadham College, Oxford University, left estate valued at £562,650 net. Among other bequests he left £20,000 to the college for maintenance of college paintings, silver and crockery.



ALAN WELLER

Four-year-old Charlie Saunders with his London trolley was among the contestants yesterday at Battersea Park — the original birthplace of the London Carthorse Parade in 1885 — for the London Harness Horse Parade

Leverhulme Trust awards

The Leverhulme trustees agreed at their recent meeting to award the following grants totalling £2,563,200 to institutions for research and education:

Research: law, politics, international relations

University of Exeter, Dr J A Vincent, £49,100 over 12 months, Older people's and British political processes.

Research: basic sciences

University of Leeds, Dr J Krause, University of Glasgow, Dr G D Ruxton, £44,770 over 2 years, differential costs and benefits relating to spatial positions within fish shoals.

Zoological Society of London, Dr P Armbruster, £25,420 over 12 months, the influence of environmental and genetic interactions on extinction dynamics.

Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dr R Waugh, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge, Dr P Dear, £209,570 over 3 years, high throughput, high resolution physical mapping in plants.

St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, Dr M K Richardson, University College London, Dr M Coates, £88,000 over 3 years, patterns of evolutionary change in vertebrate embryonic development.

University of Bristol, Dr G W Neilson, £52,950 over 2 years, Hydrophobic hydration and the hydrophobic effect: methane/water mixtures.

University of Hull, Dr J E Nicholls, Dr S M Kelly, Dr M O'Neill, Dr C G Scott, £87,900 over 3 years, nanocrystal-polymer structures for model microcavity lasers.

University of Leeds, Dr A Nelson, £55,220 over 2 years, strategies for asymmetric synthesis: sequential and parallel kinetic resolutions.

University of Sussex, Professor M F Lappert, £62,640 over 2 years, new spectator ligands & their metal complexes as novel catalysts.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Professor C R A Catlow, £488,170 over 5 years, solid state and computational chemistry.

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Dr T Welton, Dr G B Young, £96,150 over 3 years, ionic liquids: non-volatile, environmentally friendly solvents for chemistry.

Physical & Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford, Professor J M Brown, £63,980.00 over 2 years, the properties of carbon chain molecules, studied by infrared spectroscopy.

University of Glasgow, Dr D I Stott, Dr P Garside, Dr R Aitken, £66,380 over 2 years, the mechanism of somatic hypermutation in germinal centre B-cells.

Queen Mary and Westfield College, Dr C G Faulkes, £94,610 over 3 years, inbreeding avoidance and the evolution of eusociality in the Damaraland mole-rat.

University of the West of England, Bristol, Dr H Macdonald, £13,270 over 6 months, guard cells as a model system for investigating auxin signalling.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr P Farrimond, £86,270 over 3 years, sedimentary hopanoids: marker compounds for past environments.

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Professor M R Palmer, £101,040 over 3 years, variations in iron isotope compositions in the natural environment.

University of Wales College of Cardiff, Dr U Hahn, University of Warwick, Professor N Chater, £10,480 over 6 months, testing representational distortion — a new theory of similarity.

Research: applied sciences (including architecture)

University College London, Professor F T Smith, Dr G X Wu, £90,020 over 3 years, boundary-layer analysis of flow near the waterline of a surface-piercing body.

Royal Holloway, Dr R Imrie, £41,480 over 15months, architects and disabling design in the built environment.

University of Edinburgh, Dr P A Furley, Dr S E Metcalfe, Dr A J Dugmore, Dr A W Tudhope, £56,580 over 2 years, reconstruction of environmental change in the tropical wetlands of Belize.

University of Edinburgh, Dr S A West, £50,310 over 18 months, the importance of learning in the agricultural pest *Helicoverpa armigera.*

Research: humanities

University College London, Professor P J Ucko, Professor J Graham-Campbell, Dr J Tanner, £53,050 over 2 years, the art of the face during the Early Medieval Period in Britain and Norway.

Research: Fine arts

Roehampton Institute, Dr A Grau, £51,440 over 2 years, South Asian dance in Britain, negotiating cultural identity, through dance.

Education: fine arts

Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Mr P Renshaw, £79,650 over 3 years, MAP/making, exploring new landscapes in music, art and performance.

London Studio Centre, Miss M Goodhew, £75,000 over 3 years, Help for performing arts students at London Studio Centre.

Major initiatives

University of Bristol, Professor M G Anderson, £369,750 over 5 years, Centre of Advanced Studies/Fellowship Programme.

Church news

Latest appointments include:

The Rev Paul Firmin, Vicar, Shrewsbury Holy Trinity w St Julian (Lichfield), to be Vicar, Astley, Clive, Grinshill and Hadnall (same diocese).

Canon Michael Fisher, formerly Vicar, Newquay (Truro), to be Canon Emeritus of Truro Cathedral.

Prebendary Ann Hadley, Rector, Myddle, and Vicar, Broughton, and Diocesan Vocations Officer (Lichfield), to be interim Priest-in-Charge, Harvington (Worcester).

The Rev Robert Law, Rector, St Columb Major with St Wenn, and Rural Dean of Pydar (Truro), to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.

The Rev Jack Maple, Rector, St Marylebone St Paul (London), to be Priest-in-Charge, Fulham St Alban with St Augustine and Fulham St Peter.

The Rev Paul Maybury, Assistant Curate, Spondon (Derby), to be Vicar, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath (Wakefield).

The Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright, Assistant Curate, Godrevy (Truro), to be Team Vicar, Bodmin with Lanhydrock and Lanivet (same diocese).

The Rev Graham Minors, Vicar, Cainscross St Matthew and Selsley All Saints, and Rural Dean of Stonehouse (Gloucester), to be Team Rector, Bodmin with Lanhydrock and Lanivet (Truro).

The Rev Lesley Perrins, NSM Assistant Curate, Haxby w Wigginton (York), to be Assistant Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust.

The Rev Malcolm Pickering, Priest-in-Charge, Badingham with Bruisyard, Cransford and Dennington (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Vicar, Leiston (same diocese).

The Rev Robin Pirrie, Curate, King's Lynn St Margaret with St Nicholas (Norwich), to be Vicar, Torridge Estuary Team (Exeter).

The Rev James Richards, half-time Assistant Curate, Kendal Holy Trinity (Carlisle), to be Rector, Windermere St Martin (same diocese).

The Rev Patricia Robson, Priest-in-Charge, St Enoder (Truro), to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral (same diocese).

The Rev Robert Rogers, Assistant Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust (York), to be Senior Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust.

The Rev Ian Scott, Assistant Chaplain, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust, to be Chaplain, South Warwickshire Combined Care NHS Trust (Coventry).

Something new out of ancient Timbuktu

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

TIMBUKTU, to most of us, epitomises those far-off places of which we know little: even Bishop Samuel Wilberforce's famous Victorian doggerel about the missionary and the "cassowary on the plains of Timbuktoo" was ornithologically incorrect. So it is hardly surprising that the first archaeology ever done in the remote West African city took place only last year.

Archaeological research in Timbuktu poses several challenges, according to Dr Timothy Insoll of Manchester University. "These include the great depth of the deposits and the danger in excavating them," he says. Among the hazards which he found were unstable layers of horse dung, from colonial French cavalry stabling next to one trench, which had a habit of collapsing on to the excavators.

Although some of the excavations reached a depth of 16ft, much of the deposits were relatively recent: tobacco pipe stems were found even in the lowest layers reached, showing that they must postdate the 16th century and the introduction of tobacco from America. In North America, the diameter of the pipe-stem bore has proved a reliable dating tool.

The artefacts found at Timbuktu, currently on display at the British Museum, were different from those Dr Insoll has found at the earlier site of Gao, some distance downstream on the Niger although still in the Republic of Mali. Both cities lay within the medieval empire of Mali, and also the succeeding 16th-century empire of Songhay centred on Gao.

Timbuktu, however, lay in the more strategic location, where the trade route linking Fez and the Gold Coast through the Sahara crossed the salt route from Idjil in Mauritania to the Hausa states of northern Nigeria.

Dr Insoll expects much earlier finds to emerge: boreholes made during construction of a new water tower showed some 50ft of occupation deposits. He proposes to use a coring machine, such as Dr Roderick McIntosh has used at the Jenne site farther up the Niger, to document prehistoric occupation and the first urban developments in West Africa.

"The steps needed to complete archaeological investigation of the origins and development of Timbuktu are now understood," Dr Insoll said. "There is a great difference between what might be indicated on the surface, and what in reality exists below ground." He plans to return at the end of next year: the new millennium may see fresh light on this ancient crossroads of Africa.

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Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15.7 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

BARTON - On April 1st 1999 to Louisa (née Feilding) and Richard, a daughter, Phoebe Isobel Antonia.

COLES - On 31st March at the John Radcliffe Hospital, to Polly (née Easton) and Robert, a son, William Finn Allen.

HITCHCOCK - On 31st March 1999 to Elizabeth and David, a son, Edward David, a brother for Peter and Alex.

NORLAND - On 29th March in Los Angeles, to Lucy (née Broadbent) and David, a son, Thomas Christopher Paul.

ORR - On 27th March to Emma (née Bird) and Nicholas, a son, James Angus Charles, a brother for Katharine.

SHILLINGTON - On April 1st 1999 to Polly (née Kennedy) and Tommy, a son, Finnian David George.

DEATHS

BELSON - Philip Charles Euan, aged 83 years, after a brief illness, on Wednesday 31st March at Lymington Hospital. Much loved father and grandfather. Family only Cremation Service. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at Beaulieu Abbey Church on Thursday, 22nd April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

BUTTERWORTH - Sr Helen Louise (Benedict) Butterworth IBVM died suddenly but peacefully at home in Sheringham on Maundy Thursday aged 77. The funeral Mass will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, April 14th at the Church of Our Lady and English Martyrs, Cambridge.

BLAKE - Ida Mary (Mollie) of Guildford, Surrey aged 93 died 3rd April 1999. Beloved wife of the late Fred and dearly loved mother of Richard and adoring grandmother of Rupert, Annabel and Sophie and great-grandmother of Harry and Scarlet. Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 12 noon on Thursday 8th April. Family flowers only, but donations in her memory if desired to RNLI c/o James & Thomas Ltd., F/D 45 East Lane, West Horsley, Surrey KT24 6HQ Tel: (01483) 284948.

DUFFIN - Lt. Col. Charles John Riddel, late Scots Guards. On April 1st 1999, in Dumfries, beloved husband of Angela and a much loved father and grandfather. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, April 22nd at St John's Church, Dumfries at 2pm. Please, no flowers but donations, if wished, to The Alexandra Unit, Dumfries & Galloway Infirmary.

GARDNER - Andrew passed away suddenly on 2nd April 1999 aged 66. A much loved husband, father and grandfather who will be dearly missed by all his loving family and all who knew him. A service for Andrew will be held at St George's Church, Benenden, Kent on Monday 12th April 1999 at 11.30 am. No flowers but donations if desired please to The Kent Air Ambulance c/o T W Fuggle & Son F/D 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6QU Tel: 01580 763340.

LAYZELL - Stephen Weston. Entered into the presence of the Lord he loved and served for over 50 years, suddenly in hospital, on Tuesday 30th March, aged 71. He will be greatly missed by his wife, family, church fellowship and many friends. Lately Managing Director, Blake Marston Priest, Insurance Brokers. Served the Lord faithfully as member, deacon and elder in the church at Streatham and as teacher and Superintendent in the Sunday School and Grace Baptist Trust Corporation, SB Trust and with Pilgrim Homes. The Funeral Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held at Hambro Road Baptist Church, Streatham, at 2 pm on Monday 12th April, followed by interment at Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Road, SW16. Family flowers only, please, but donations in his memory, made payable to either Pilgrim Homes or Grace Baptist Trust Corporation, will be gratefully received by the family via Dowsett and Jenkins Funeral Directors, 1507 London Road, Norbury, SW16 4AE, telephone - 0181 764 2912.

MALLEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday. In Londonderry. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-granny of Hamish.

MYNORS - David Rickards Baskerville, much loved brother, father and grandfather. Died peacefully, 1st April 1999, at the Old Vicarage, Moulsford. Funeral at 4.00 pm, Wednesday 14th April 1999 at Shellingford Church, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Family flowers only. Donations for the new garden, including a memorial bench, at the Old Vicarage, c/o Howard Chadwick Funeral Service, Clockhouse Cottage, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8ED.

PAUL - Jonathan Martin peacefully on March 31st 1999 aged 56 years. Private family funeral. A Service of Celebration will be held at St Mary le Tower Church Ipswich on Friday April 16th at 3.00 pm. No flowers please but donations if wished for Cancer Research may be sent to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 650 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4PW.

PLUNKET - Aileen Sybil Mary (née Guinness) at home while peacefully asleep, on March 31st. Funeral Service at St George's Aubrey Walk, Campden Hill, W8 at 2.30 on Thursday 8th April.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset. Requiem Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday 9th April at 10.00am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Down F/D, 66 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422643.

SEAWRIGHT - Margaretha Johanna (Bobbie) died on 31st March 1999. Loved by husband John, Anitra, Hana, Petra, Hannah and Tessa. Funeral at West London Crematorium on Thursday 8th April at 3pm. Family and close friends only. No flowers. Donations to M.I.N.D.

WESTON - John Carruthers on 26th March 1999 in his 82nd year. The funeral has taken place.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF NOVARA PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24 March 1999 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 30 March 1999.

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OBITUARIES

AILEEN PLUNKET

Aileen Plunket, Irish hostess, died on March 31 aged 94. She was born on May 16, 1904.

The eldest of the three Guinness sisters, Aileen Plunket became a legendary hostess in Ireland. She was the elder sister of Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, and of Oonagh, Lady Oranmore and Browne. For many years "Mrs P" (as some friends called her) lived and entertained at her lovely residence, Luttrellstown, in Co Dublin. She was no more a stranger to eccentricity than the other Guinnesses, and was noted for having cupboards full of shoes to rival those of her friend the Duchess of Windsor — or even Mrs Imelda Marcos. Nor did she hesitate to fly to Paris from Dublin or London to have her hair done by the legendary hairdresser Monsieur Alexandre in his salon at the Rond Point des Champs Elysées.

At a party in the 1920s Sir Sacheverell Sitwell complained to Stephen Tennant: "There are too many Guinnesses!" and as Tennant recalled "Eight or nine Guinnesses in the room looked round angrily." Maureen, Oonagh, Meraud, Tanis and many of the others predeceased her, but Aileen lived on, latterly a tiny figure in black, with a black velvet headband, suffering from osteoporosis.

Aileen Sibell Mary Guinness was the eldest daughter of Ernest Guinness, and a grand-daughter of the 1st Earl of Iveagh. She was perhaps the grandest of his three daughters. Maureen was funnier and naughtier, and Oonagh slightly timid, veering more towards Southern Ireland's unpredictable literary society.

The film director John Huston wrote of them: "The sisters are all witches, lovely ones to be sure, but witches nonetheless. They are all transparent-skinned, with pale hair and light blue eyes. You can very nearly see through them. They are quite capable of changing swinish folk into real swine before your very eyes, and turning them back again without their even knowing it. Or putting the wrong words into the mouths of pretentious persons, so that everyone, including the victims, is appalled at the nonsense they talk."

Aileen's father, Ernest Guinness, ran the family brewery and she was brought up in Southern Ireland until her father became concerned about Sinn Fein and sent her to school in England. She came out in London and was photographed by Cecil Beaton.

In 1927 she married her first husband, the Hon Brinsley Plunket, younger son of the 5th Lord Plunket. They had two daughters, the younger of whom, Doon, married the Queen's first cousin, 5th Earl Granville. During the Second World War Brinsley Plunket served as a flight lieutenant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He and Aileen divorced in 1940, and the following November he was killed on active service.

Partly out of loneliness she made an unfortunate second choice of husband in 1956, in Valerian Stux-Rybar, a designer born in Yugoslavia who began life as a trainee at the New York store Lord & Taylor, and went on to work for Elizabeth Arden as a window-dresser. Later he achieved his own fame, creating opulent rooms and dressing extravagant parties. He designed the lobby of the Plaza Athenée Hotel in New York. He was described as the world's most expensive decorator. His wife confessed that she certainly found him an expensive mistake, but she remained on friendly terms with him even after their divorce in 1965. Nevertheless, she reverted to the Plunket name. Stux-Rybar died in 1990 aged 71.

On her first marriage, Aileen's father had given her Luttrellstown Castle, at Clonsilla, Co Dublin, not far from Phoenix Park. It was a large, crenellated castle, set in a 570-acre park entirely surrounded by a wall, which enclosed a large lake and stream (with a many-arched bridge), a sham ruin, a Doric temple and much beautiful parkland. The castle itself was rebuilt in the early 18th century for Luke White, the MP for Leitrim. Plunket brought palatial elegance. She replaced the 19th-century Tudor banqueting hall with a dining room in



Aileen, the eldest of the Guinness sisters, filled her castle with treasures and guests

18th-century style, adorned with birds, swags and foliage of stucco on the walls. The ceiling was painted by de Wit.

Her designer, Felix Harbord — sometimes nicknamed "Hardboard", or even "Cardboard" — created an Adamesque drawing-room with *grisaille* paintings by Peter de Gree. The staircase hall was given a ceiling painted by Thornhill. Aileen filled the castle with treasures, beautiful pictures, tapestries, carpets and furniture. (Some years later she sued Harbord for selling some paintings which she insisted she had only wanted valued. She won the case.) While her sister Maureen collected owls in every form, Aileen collected frogs in china, crystal and various fabrics. Inevitably, Luttrellstown sported a cushion inscribed: "Before you meet a handsome prince, you have to kiss a lot of toads."

Luttrellstown was one of Southern Ireland's finest properties, and there she entertained generously for more than half a century, often in a most unconventional way. She loved fancy dress and swimming parties. She gave a drag party, a "come unrecognisable" party (at which she failed to spot her own daughter), a floor party (at which everyone sat and ate on the floor) and, in the 1960s — impressed by the beaded hippies of California — she imported a black American dance teacher to teach her guests to do the twist.

She was at times an exacting hostess, hating her guests to leave, and was known to pounce on those sneaking out at 4am to guide them back into the room. More formally, the Irish Government prevailed on her to help to entertain official visitors, as Luttrellstown had the necessary splendour and was conveniently situated.

Eventually, in 1983, she found the castle too big and was prevailed upon to sell it. Christie's arranged a memorably sad sale of the contents, marking the end of a particular era of Irish life. The star lot in the three-day sale was a royal commode from the Palace of Fontainebleau, made for Louis XV by Joubert and Marchand, which fetched £64,000. The castle itself was sold to a private buyer, who also purchased some of the contents.

Plunket was a close friend of the Duchess of Windsor, and was celebrated for once appearing at a party in the 1960s dressed in a highly conspicuous black-and-white striped dress by Givenchy identical to the one being worn by the Duchess. The two ladies were photographed together. Plunket attended the Duchess's funeral in 1986 with her hair specially coiffed into her black hat.

Although a Guinness, she often pleaded poverty, and though there were many servants at Luttrellstown, it was said that they were scarcely paid. Bills were likewise neglected. But she was unpredictable. Shortly after listening to a dissertation about her poverty, one of her guests was surprised to see her in Paris, where she had flown from Dublin to have her hair done. On another occasion she took her daughter out to lunch to beg for money. When it was given, she promptly spent it all on frivolous luxuries at Asprey and elsewhere.

Latterly she lived in London and in a house near Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire. Although immensely frail she still appeared at the occasional party, especially if royalty was present. She is survived by her younger daughter.

SID GREEN

Sidney Green, comedy writer, died on March 15 aged 71. He was born on January 24, 1928.



SID GREEN was half of one of the most sucessful comedy-writing duos of the 1960s. With his partner Dick Hills, he wrote material for such popular performers of the day as Sid James, Frankie Howerd, Bruce Forsyth and Bob Monkhouse. However, their most successful venture was an eight-year collaboration with Morecambe and Wise, whom their scripts propelled to national stardom.

The first Morecambe and Wise show had been poorly received, but Hills and Green helped to rescue their flagging act. By 1963 Eric and Ernie were winning awards, and in 1968 they gained a contract with BBC television, such was the degree of their success.

Sidney Charles Green was born in Becontree, Essex, and educated at Haberdashers' Aske's School at Elstree, Hertfordshire, where he met Dick Hills. After a period in the armed forces — where they were both officers, Hills in the Navy, Green in the Army — the two met at an old boys' rugby match, by which time both were teachers. They decided to turn their hand to comedy scripts, beginning by writing a pantomime for the old boys' rugby club.

It was after this that the pair decided to write comedy for a living. They struggled at first, until the Cockney comedian Dave King took them under his wing as one of his regular scriptwriters in the 1950s.

Green and Hills first met Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise in 1960 on *The Alma Cogan Show*, where they were appearing as guest stars. The four immediately liked each other, and when Associated Television offered Morecambe and Wise their own show, Eric insisted that Green and Hills join them.

Besides writing, Green and Hills often appeared on camera. Industrial action by the actors' union Equity meant that the pair appeared repeatedly as extras on the early Morecambe and Wise shows. Later they starred in their own television programmes, *That Show* and *Those Two Fellers*, by which time they were the highest paid comedy writers in the business.

They had their disappointments too. Green's bizarre comedy of 1960, *The Strange World of Gurney Slade*, was badly received, as were the three films Green and Hills wrote for Morecambe and Wise: without an audience to play to, Eric and Ernie looked uncomfortable and unfunny.

Soon after Morecambe and Wise secured their BBC deal, Eric suffered a severe heart attack, which kept the programme off the air for ten months. When it resumed, Green and Hills had moved on to ATV and two years later they left for America. Hills returned to Britain in 1974, leaving Green, who went on to join the scriptwriters of *The Johnny Carson Show*. Dick Hills died in 1996.

In 1977 Green devised a romantic comedy about a mixed-race love affair, but no American television network was brave enough to accept it. However, it was snapped up by the controller of London Weekend Television, Michael Grade, and shown as *Mixed Blessing*.

Green returned to Britain soon afterwards, and worked with the latest batch of mainstream comedians, such as Cannon and Ball, Freddy Starr, Michael Barrymore and the Krankies, although by then old-fashioned variety comedy seemed to be on its last legs. Green retired to Frinton-on-Sea, where he enjoyed a brief second career as an after-dinner speaker.

Following a heart attack, Sid Green underwent a triple bypass in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their three daughters.

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM PILLAR

Admiral Sir William Pillar, GBE, KCB, Chief of Fleet Support, 1979-81, *died on March 18 aged 75. He was* born on February 24, 1924.

IN RECOGNITION of his achievements as a naval engineer and because of the great affection in which he was held, Bill Pillar's friends recently clubbed together to have his portrait painted. The picture, by Theo Ramos, was presented to the naval engineering school *HMS Sultan* at Gosport just a fortnight before Pillar's death, in a ceremony much enhanced by his witty and touching speech, delivered as usual without notes but on this occasion from a wheelchair.

Only the second engineer to achieve the rank of full admiral, Bill Pillar entered the Navy in 1942 from Blundell's School and took an engineering degree at the Royal Naval Engineering College at Manadon near Plymouth. Subsequent appointments included sea duty in the aircraft carrier *Illustrious*, the dispatch vessel *Alert* in the Far East and the destroyer *Corunna*.

His ability to lead and motivate people was well respected. In one post in Gibraltar, he found himself on the other side of the table from that formidable trade unionist Joe Bassano — later Chief Minister of Gibraltar — who remembers Pillar for his grasp of the strategic utility of Gibraltar dockyard and his appreciation of the loyalty of the workforce. "We had very tough negotiations, but at one minute to five we would become friends again and go down to the pub."

Pillar's most professionally enjoyable seagoing tour was as chief engineer of the cruiser *Tiger*, which *visited South America in* 1964-65. This was followed by a relaxed appointment on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief South Africa and South American station, based at Cape Town.

His inspirational talents were never put to better use than as captain of the Royal *Naval Engineering College, Manadon,* where he made it his business to know, understand and guide every one of the young students. He was also able to indulge his passion for sailing. Convinced of the character-building effect of offshore yachting, he would often accompany crews of students, but never as skipper and always taking his turn at the menial tasks.

He and his family had a particular love of Scotland from his three tours there, including Port Admiral Rosyth in 1976. From 1977 to 1981, as Assistant and subsequently Chief of Fleet Support, Pillar was involved in the often painful management of decline under the severe budgetary pressures of the period. Particularly distressing for him was the closure of the Chatham and Gibraltar dockyards — *at Chatham, in the absence of a* minister, he took it upon himself to break the news — and the reductions in the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, the Navy's tankers and store ships. Slightly older than many members of the Admiralty Board, he was in some sense a father confessor, advising, for example, against resignations as a reaction to the damaging 1981 Defence Review.

In 1982 Pillar became the first naval engineer to be appointed Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, where he was much admired for his educated commentaries when introducing internationally celebrated visiting speakers.



From 1985 to 1990 he was Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, the constitutional link between the Sovereign and the States, or parliament, of the island. With enthusiasm and a characteristic absence of pretension, he supported all aspects of Jersey life and conducted the representational aspects of the role with style.

Generous with his time in the pursuit of good causes, he was valued for his pragmatic wisdom as president of the Forces' Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops as well as for his work for the RNVR Youth Sail Training Trust and the training brig *Royalist*. For twenty years he was a Commodore and Life Vice-Commodore of the Royal Naval Sailing Association.

He was appointed KCB in 1980 and GBE in 1983. Despite these and other honours, he preserved an attractive modesty, remaining at heart a practical engineer whose recreations were always "rough gardening and fixing things".

He is survived by his wife, Ursula, whom he married in 1946 and by their three sons and daughter.

ERICA O'DONNELL

Erica O'Donnell, MBE, founder of the Study Centre *for the History of the Fine* and Decorative Arts, died on March 12 aged 79. She was born in Dublin on March 11, 1920.

WHEN Erica O'Donnell opened the Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1964, it was unique in offering a year's diploma course in which the history of furniture, ceramics, textiles and metalwork received equal treatment with architecture, painting and sculpture. Its success was attested by the number of applicants, who for years far outnumbered available places, and by the number of decorative art courses that sprang up elsewhere. Alumni of the course now include the directors and curators of national museums, art historians throughout the English-speaking world and hundreds of lay enthusiasts.

Erica O'Donnell was the only child of Major-General Eric O'Donnell. She was educated at St Mary's Ascot, and tutored in Paris and Salzburg. At the age of 18 she entered the Courtauld Institute to study the history of art, but with the outbreak of war she took a position with MI5, which guaranteed an interesting wartime career. After that she moved to the BBC Foreign Service, then to the Special Operations Executive, where she became an Intelligence Officer for Czechoslovakia. In her next assignment she was parachuted behind German lines. Finally she worked for the Red Cross, *with responsibility for the* survivors from concentration camps.

After the war she was social secretary to the Duff-Coopers at the British Embassy in Paris for their final burst of high living at Hôtel de Charost. Returning to London in 1948, she resumed art history research at the Courtauld Institute, then a vortex of academic studies. There she met the distinguished émigrés Sir Ernst Gombrich, Johannes Wilde and Rudolf Wittkower, as well as British historians. She joined Kenneth Clark's research team and later assisted Anthony Blunt in cataloguing the drawings by Stefano Della Bella in the Royal Collection. These towering personalities made a great impression on her, and she saw to it that they remembered her.

In 1956 she married the Polish historian and author Jozef Kisielewski. Exiled from his homeland by the German and later the Communist authorities because of his patriotic writing, he became a prominent figure in the Polish community in London until his death in 1965.

Faced then with the need to support two sons, O'Donnell returned full time to art history. She had noticed that while universities taught the history of fine art and museums put on lectures and gallery talks, nobody offered a course that embraced all aspects of the fine and the decorative arts. So she de-



signed one that would appeal to aspiring museum keepers, country house owners, auctioneers and students alike.

Her principal ally was Sir Trenchard Cox, the Director of the V & A from 1956 to 1966, who permitted her to use the museum's lecture hall and galleries. The curriculum was established by a distinguished academic board, and lecturers were recruited from O'Donnell's circle at the museum and the Courtauld.

The study centre had no premises — and after 1975 it was entirely nomadic — so instead it operated out of her handbag (which also contained the stock of a tobacconist's shop). Keeping overheads to a minimum, the centre was personified by her diminutive figure in the habitual smock-dress. Circling round the V & A's entrance hall in a manner both unobtrusive and assertive, she might be interviewing a new student, calming a novice lecturer or reestablishing her flimsy territorial rights.

She developed persuasion as an art form, and few who knew her had not been thoroughly intimidated on at least one occasion. She was adept at kindling a sense of obligation, consistent in ignoring counter-arguments and resilient in the face of defeat, as when the study centre was ousted from the V & A in 1975.

Those who knew her well understood that she was formidable by design, not by nature. Tenacious and outspoken on behalf of others, she remained modest about herself, shy on formal occasions and in need of encouragement before speaking in public. She was not a natural teacher, but she proved a shrewd judge of character, quick to recognise the potential and limitations of both lecturers and students.

For promising students seeking work in the art world — a profession with more snakes than ladders — she was ready with advice on how to find careers appropriate to their interests and talents, and would then provide introductions and write references that were candid, perceptive and magisterial.

She retired as director of the study centre in 1990 and in the same year was appointed MBE. Recent years brought diabetes and suffering. Being one of life's givers, she remained independent and resisted more offers of help than she accepted. She took pride in the success of the study centre's alumni and above all in her two sons, who survive her.

ERIC BOURNE

Eric Bourne, foreign correspondent, died on February 27 aged 89. He was born on March 2, 1909.

ERIC BOURNE belonged to the golden age for newspaper foreign correspondents, before television intruded by providing coverage — in colour — the night before the papers appeared. But Bourne was never a member of the more glamorous foreign corps whose bylines were known to millions. Instead, he relied on an intimate knowledge of Eastern Europe and its key figures, which meant that his career survived the arrival of other media and even the collapse of the Communist regimes that he had studied for decades.

Bourne came from Sevenoaks, an unlikely starting point for one who spent much of his time travelling up and down the Balkans like a character from an Eric Ambler novel. After Sevenoaks School he joined the *Sevenoaks Chronicle* and learnt shorthand, which was to prove most useful when covering the trials of Nazi war criminals.

He proceeded to the Press Association and the *News Chronicle*, the usual progress of an ambitious young reporter, and then in 1945 he moved to Reuters. This was his big chance. He became its bureau head in Germany and for ten months he covered the Nuremberg trials. He was the only journalist able to take down Rudolf Hess's jabbering final statement before he was sentenced to death.

From Reuters Bourne went to Prague for *The Sunday Times* and started reporting regularly for the *Daily Express*. His speciality was the Balkans, and a telephone call from "Bourne of Belgrade" always meant that something worth printing was arriving.

Soon his remit extended to take in all of Eastern Europe. His contacts included Communist Party leaders as well as the early dissidents. He covered the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia in 1948, the Hungarian uprising in 1956 and the Soviet invasion of Prague in 1968. During the Hungarian uprising Bourne was in Budapest for *The Sunday Times* while the *Express* coverage was entrusted to Sefton Delmer, the paper's great star. Bourne, who was rightly proud of his professionalism, got his copy out. Delmer, after the first day, did not.

In the 1960s Bourne left Fleet Street for *The Christian Science Monitor*. It was a paper which appreciated expertise and in-depth reporting. Bourne, never a member of the trench-coat school of foreign correspondents, suited it admirably. He was still writing a column shortly before his death.

He was reticent, self-deprecating and quite unselfish. He liked nothing better than to share his knowledge with other correspondents who had arrived with little background knowledge of the situation they were expected to cover. He presided over select groups at the special tables he always had reserved for him at hotels in Eastern European capitals and provided what amounted to tutorials in current events.

He was married three times and leaves a wife and a son.

ON THIS DAY

April 6, 1950

A not unfamiliar criticism of food in some British hotels but, it should be remembered, this report came at a time of austerity, only a few years after the end of the Second World War.

POOR HOTEL SERVICE VISITORS' EVIDENCE

The general conclusion that the public do not get the service which is reasonable and necessary in British hotels outside the luxury class has been arrived at by the hotels committee of the British Tourist and Holidays Board after hearing the evidence of a widely representative cross-section of hotel users.

It was also found that poor service and indifferent food in many cases drive overseas visitors to the continent of Europe, where standards in both service and food are higher; and that the remedy for some shortcomings lies in the hands of the hotelier. Action by the Government is urgently necessary to give relief from high wage costs, the high cost of furnishings and equipment largely due to purchase tax, the effect of unreasonable licensing laws, and the obstacle to good catering represented by the 5 shillings limit upon the price of meals in hotels and restaurants.

So far as hotels of the most expensive "luxury" type were concerned, the services provided by those in Britain ranked equal in every respect with those offered by hotels of the same type in other countries anywhere in the world.

The general opinion was that the reception of visitors on arrival at other hotels left a very good deal to be desired. Visitors liked to be made to feel that they were really welcome and not that they were a mere room number to be dealt with in an impersonal manner with the utmost speed. Some witnesses had noted a deterioration in the quality of service compared with that given before the war, and some had noted an even greater deterioration in the past two years.

The general standard of comfort in lounges appeared on the whole to be reasonably satisfactory and the general opinion was that British beds were very comfortable, and that bedclothes were sufficient, with the proviso: "Some method of preventing eiderdowns from slipping off should be devised."

Breakfast was agreed to be the worst meal of the day, both in quantity and variety, and the suggestion was made that it could be improved by the provision of toast instead of bread, and by the addition of fresh fruit.

The general opinion, says the report, was that the standard of vegetable cooking was very low and that it could and should be improved upon. Boiled potatoes, whether served whole or mashed, were generally wet and unappetising looking, and green vegetables were too often accompanied by much of the water in which they had been boiled.

BALKANS WAR

Short comes to aid of refugees

■ Mobbed by bewildered refugees, Clare Short confronted Macedonian officials and urged them to stop obstructing families escaping Kosovo. The British minister demanded that 11 busloads of refugees who had spent 12 hours stranded on a roadside near the frontier be allowed into a relief camp built by British soldiers .... Reports, pages 1-9

Birth on the run

Mahia Islama was on the run from the Serbs when she gave birth to her seventh child on a pile of old clothes in the forest. There was no water and no medicine. They had been running from the Serbs for three days .... Page 3

Apache attack ready

Nato is about to move more aggressively into the low level bombing phase of its campaign, marshalling Apache attack helicopters and aircraft armed with cluster bombs to hit the Yugoslav forces in Kosovo .... Page 8

Serb rift on losses

Confusion is growing over the number of deaths and injuries caused by Nato airstrikes because of a rift between politicians in Belgrade. While state media outlets are intent on fanning patriotism inside the country, hardline leaders are determined to keep the outside world in the dark .... Page 5

Albright 'pushed US'

As the US and Nato enter the third week of bombardment with more military hardware pouring into the region, there are some who fear that Madeleine Albright's own experiences, rather than considerations of diplomacy, may have pushed Nato into a Balkans nightmare .... Page 9

NEWS

Sanctions against Libya are lifted

■ Libya faces a compensation bill of hundreds of millions of pounds if the two men handed over yesterday to face trial for the Lockerbie disaster are convicted. The surrender of Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah led to the immediate suspension of the UN sanctions against Libya which have been in force since 1992 .... Pages 1, 10

Pair plucked from sea

A pregnant woman and her art dealer husband survived nearly two hours in icy waters after their helicopter, packed with works of art, crashed off the Dorset coast. Suffering shock and hypothermia, Paul and Lisa Burgess clung to helicopter debris .... Page 1

Scottish MPs' pay bid

Members of the first Scottish parliament in 300 years are to use the historic first term to demand a 15 per cent pay increase to boost their £40,000 salaries. They might also ask the Ministry of Defence to withdraw its nuclear submarine fleet .... Page 13

Cabinet candidates

John Reid, the Transport Minister, and Paul Murphy, the Northern Ireland Minister, have emerged as strong candidates to enter the Cabinet when Tony Blair makes a reshuffle over the coming three months ...... Page 14

Chinese PM visits US

Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, is starting an eight-day visit to the US at a time when Sino-US ties have been battered by disputes ranging from Beijing's trade deficit and China's alleged theft of nuclear secrets, to human rights issues and now the Kosovo imbroglio .... Page 15

2,000 to share royal couple's big day

■ Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to invite 2,000 members of the public inside the precincts of Windsor Castle for their wedding in June. Applications will be invited for tickets to view the couple entering and leaving St George's Chapel, spiritual home to the Order of the Garter, which stands inside the castle walls .... Page 11

SIMON RYDER



The World Coal Carrying Championships at Gawthorpe, near Wakefield, began 36 years ago with two coalminers arguing about who could run the fastest with a sack of coal on his back. John Hunter won yesterday's event, run over a mile with a 110lb bag, in 4m 27sec

BUSINESS

Shares shunned: The number of stock market flotations slumped to its lowest level in 10 years in the first quarter, with institutional investors accused of shunning smaller companies .... Page 44

High interest: Hopes are growing of an interest rate cut in Britain and Europe this week, amid evidence of a continuing slowdown in most European economies .... Page 44

Unhealthy outlook: Companies could be forced to withdraw private healthcare benefits offered to employees because of a sharp rise in costs .... Page 44

Looking up: More than 150,000 people have made enquiries to National Savings about the Individual Savings Account (ISA), the new tax-free savings scheme .... Page 44

SPORT

Football: Everton have been playing with fire for a long time, and after 45 consecutive seasons in the top flight this could be the year that they go down in flames ..... Page 23

Racing: Richard Dunwoody became the leading National Hunt jockey yesterday when he broke Peter Scudamore's record of 1,678 career wins with two victories at Wincanton .... Page 29

Golf: As competitors assembled for the Masters in Augusta all the talk was of David Duval, who has won four tournaments this year, two in succession .... Page 27

Rugby league: Leeds Rhinos defeated London Broncos 38-12 in a Super League match which was a dress-rehearsal for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final .... Page 26

ARTS

Hot from Hollywood: Giles Whittell on *The Matrix* — the Keanu Reeves sci-fi thriller that has broken American box-office records over the Easter weekend .... Page 32

Missing link: An exhibition now on in Leeds casts new light on Katarzyna Kobro, who provides the vital inter-war link between Russian Constructivism and European Modernism .... Page 33

Art books: Richard Cork leafs through the glossy pages of a selection of tempting spring volumes for art lovers, from Ingres and Manet to sculpture and crafts .... Page 33

Italian feast: In Parma and Bologna, Rodney Milnes gets the chance to hear good provincial Italian productions of operas by the composer Giordano .... Page 34

FEATURES

Running ahead: The man who lost an arm and a leg while clearing a minefield in Mozambique tells how he came to run the London Marathon less than a year after leaving hospital .... Pages 16, 17

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Douglas Bader's battle to fly again after the loss of both legs continues to provide inspiration .... Page 16

LAW

Silk cut: Why does the Bar, which values its independence, leave the awarding of silk to the Government? .... Page 35

IN BUSINESS

Unsettling: Thousands of companies have failed to reveal in their annual reports the average time it takes them to settle bills. So how useful is the late-payment legislation in helping small firms to deal with big business? .... Page 37

THE PAPERS

Too often the Clinton Administration has let its pursuit of diplomatic engagement with China take precedence over important interests, like defending human rights and protecting military secrets. The visit of China's Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, to the US should be used to encourage a more exacting approach. He has a well-earned reputation for speaking clearly, without diplomatic evasion. Officials who meet him should be equally direct.

The New York Times

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
Losing your money has never been easier, as gambling goes online

■ **HOMES**
Why the smart money is moving into historic Bermondsey in South London

RADIO & TV

Preview: Stephen Tompkinson is in a larky mood for a trip from Singapore to Bangkok. *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2, 9.30pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph is impressed by the street magic of a young conjuror Paul Zenon. *Turning Tricks* (Channel 4) .... Pages 42, 43

OPINION

A moral duty

Accommodating the sick, the children and the elderly from among the refugees is a moral and a political imperative. Britain must set an example of compassion as well as military resolution .... Page 19

Mr Zhu in Washington

Beijing is muttering about privatisation and tariff reform. But such necessary ideas are politically sensitive and hard to push forward when civil unrest and loss of central control are the bogeys that China most fears .... Page 19

Mine of information

The hillside furnaces and once famous Big Pit of a Welsh mining community should be preserved so that future generations might understand some of the paradoxes of their industrial past .... Page 19

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

I suspect that the Anglo-Saxon and Northern European leaders — and their electors — would always find excuses to help white victims before black .... Page 18

MICHAEL GOVE

Now, at the drop of a Nato bomb, Tony Blair acts out the part of war leader in the style of Gladstone, then *boom* Thatcher, and then *boom* Churchill .... Page 18

HELEN RUMBELOW

The national tradition, duty even, of using queues as a means of fairly distributing anything from stamps to a glance at celebrity has been wiped out with one stroke of Sophie's wand .... Page 18

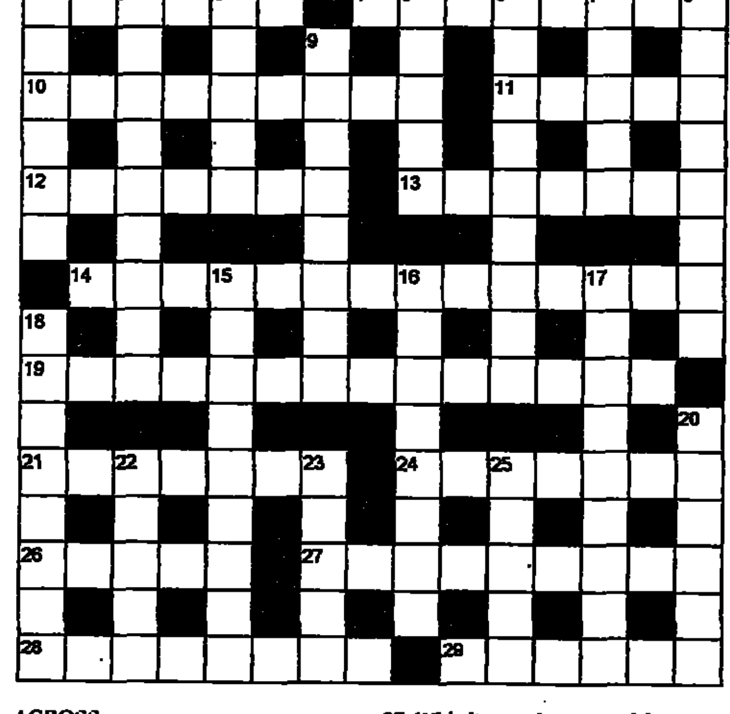
OBITUARIES

Aileen Plunket, Irish hostess; **Admiral Sir William Pillar**; **Erica O'Donnell**, art historian ... Page 21

LETTERS

Escalation of Kosovo conflict: second chamber; equal age of consent; in praise of the National Trust; running the BBC; women in sport; taking liberties with Shakespeare; *Times* Two Crossword .... Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,070



ACROSS

1 Cashier to supply statement (6).
4 Teaching head less practised but more to be relied upon (8).
10 Graves, possibly, needing this implement for opening (9).
11 Absorbed in college, so to speak (5).
12 Regularly takes in vital supplies of popular hard drinks (7).
13 Puts burden on and moves awkwardly (7).
14 Pioneer reconstructed base after rest (5,3,6).
19 Moving end of scenes after folk make peace (4,4,6).
21 Soldier expressed bitter dissatisfaction (7).
24 Generous settlement for artist in defamation case (7).
26 Island goat without cars (5).
27 With it one chops a stricken tree (9).
28 Expanding the pupil's research into language? Just the reverse (8).
29 Interfere with sound of gong (6).

DOWN

1 Swindle bound to include city in upset (6).
2 Settle with some hesitation on draught animal (9).
3 Rope-maker supplying girl climbing around island (5).
5 Cause of pain for horse English kept between lines (5).
6 Ruined Roman site yields household artefact (5,4).
7 Fibre running through mistletoe (5).
8 Close to fighting here, call on support (8).
9 Bearing gifts, one hears (8).
15 Goal post, perhaps, I protected as defender (9).
16 Radio with frequency for Resistance not in possession of Dutch (8).
17 Found to be dangerous as electical apparatus (9).
18 Welcomed motorists in fix (8).
20 A fellow concealing money in niche (6).
22 Plane crashed in mountainous country (5).
23 Grow mature in American state prison (5).
25 Splendid book gets enthusiastic review (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,069

DISTINGUISHED
E T D R S O E A
AGREEMENT SETUP
R A A A H E R P
JEWEL TOME FAIR
O I L U D C E
HEARSAY SMITTEN
N F T S O T
LETTISH SAMURAI
E E C O H A C
TURN AGIO NOBLE
T G K W T T U S
ELLEN ANGELFISH
R O O S U E L I
WATCHONESSTEP

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 6.25 am
Sun sets: 7.41 pm
Moon sets: 9.25 am
Moon rises: -

Last quarter April 9

London 7.41 pm to 6.23 am
Bristol 7.51 pm to 6.33 am
Edinburgh 8.00 pm to 6.29 am
Manchester 7.53 pm to 6.29 am
Penzance 8.01 pm to 6.47 am



FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will start cloudy and damp but the rain will clear away to the east by afternoon. That will leave sunshine and showers, the showers heaviest and most frequent in the west as it continues fairly mild. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be showery, some of the showers heavy and prolonged and merging to give a longer spell of rain, especially in more northern areas. The showers may also be accompanied by thunder.

Tonight, Scotland will continue to have showers but these will ease off in the west later in the night. Showers in England and Wales will also tend to die away with Northern Ireland mostly dry with clear spells.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England:** cloudy and wet morning but rain clearing this afternoon to leave sunshine and isolated showers. Moderate southwest wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Central S England, Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** early rain will soon clear to leave sunshine and showers. Moderate SW wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **W Midlands, Central N, NE England:** cloudy, wet start but the rain will clear away to leave some sunshine and a few showers. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** early cloud and rain quickly clearing to leave brief sunny spells and showers, some of which will be heavy and thundery. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** early rain in the south will clear but clouding over again this afternoon with showers and longer spells of rain. Moderate to fresh southwest wind will veer westerly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll:** brief sunny spells; showers, some heavy and thundery. Longer spell of rain possible this morning. Mod to fresh SW wind will veer W. Max 13C (55F)

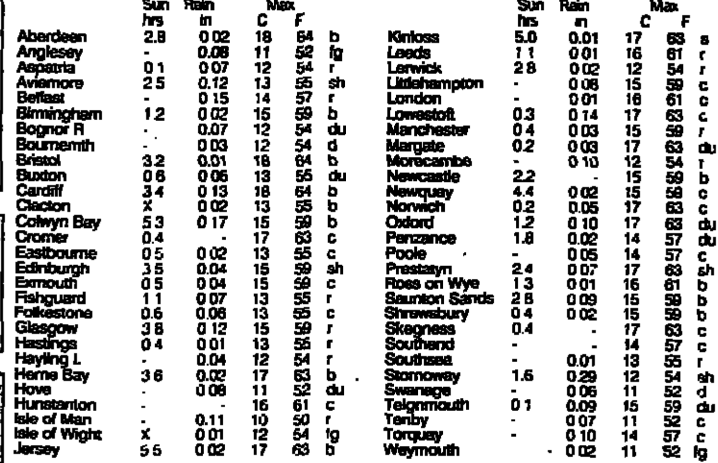
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** a mainly dull day with showery outbreaks of rain, some of these heavy and prolonged. Light to moderate variable wind becoming west to northwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells and showers, some heavy, thundery and prolonged. Moderate to fresh southwest wind will veer west to northwest. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals and showers, some heavy and perhaps thundery. Fresh or strong southwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Outlook:** showers in the north and east tomorrow will die away in the afternoon, although it will cloud over in Northern Ireland with rain later on. The rain will slowly spread through the rest of the United Kingdom during Thursday, but it will be easing off as it does so. It will continue to be fairly mild.

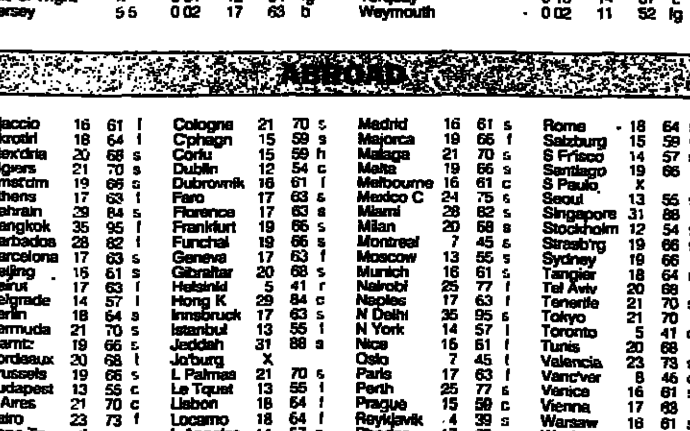
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



24 hrs to 5 pm b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.02	18	64	b	Kinloss	5.0	0.01	17	63	s
Anglesey	-	0.08	11	52	fg	Leeds	1.1	0.01	16	61	r
Aspatria	0.1	0.07	12	54	r	Lerwick	2.8	0.02	12	54	r
Aviemore	2.5	0.12	13	55	sh	Littlehampton	-	0.08	15	59	c
Belfast	-	0.15	14	57	r	London	-	0.01	16	61	c
Birmingham	1.2	0.02	15	59	b	Lowestoft	0.3	0.14	17	63	c
Bognor R	-	0.07	12	54	du	Manchester	0.4	0.03	15	59	r
Bournemth	-	0.03	12	54	d	Margate	0.2	0.03	17	63	du
Bristol	3.2	0.01	18	64	b	Morecambe	-	0.10	12	54	r
Buxton	0.6	0.06	13	55	du	Newcastle	2.2	-	15	59	b
Cardiff	3.4	0.13	18	64	b	Newquay	4.4	0.02	15	59	c
Clacton	X	0.02	13	55	b	Norwich	0.2	0.05	17	63	c
Colwyn Bay	5.3	0.17	15	59	b	Oxford	1.2	0.10	17	63	du
Cromer	0.4	-	17	63	c	Penzance	1.8	0.02	14	57	du
Eastbourne	0.5	0.02	13	55	c	Poole	-	0.05	14	57	c
Edinburgh	3.5	0.04	15	59	sh	Prestatyn	2.4	0.07	17	63	sh
Exmouth	0.5	0.04	15	59	c	Ross on Wye	1.3	0.01	16	61	b
Fishguard	1.1	0.07	13	55	r	Saunton Sands	2.8	0.09	15	59	b
Folkestone	0.6	0.08	13	55	c	Shrewsbury	0.4	0.02	15	59	b
Glasgow	3.8	0.12	15	59	r	Skegness	0.4	-	17	63	c
Hastings	0.4	0.01	13	55	r	Southend	-	-	14	57	c
Hayling I.	-	0.04	12	54	r	Southsea	-	0.01	13	55	r
Herne Bay	3.6	0.02	17	63	b	Stornoway	1.6	0.29	12	54	sh
Hove	-	0.08	11	52	du	Swanage	-	0.06	11	52	d
Hunstanton	-	-	16	61	c	Teignmouth	0.1	0.09	15	59	du
Isle of Man	-	0.11	10	50	r	Tenby	-	0.07	11	52	c
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	12	54	fg	Torquay	-	0.10	14	57	c
Jersey	5.5	0.02	17	63	b	Weymouth	-	0.02	11	52	fg

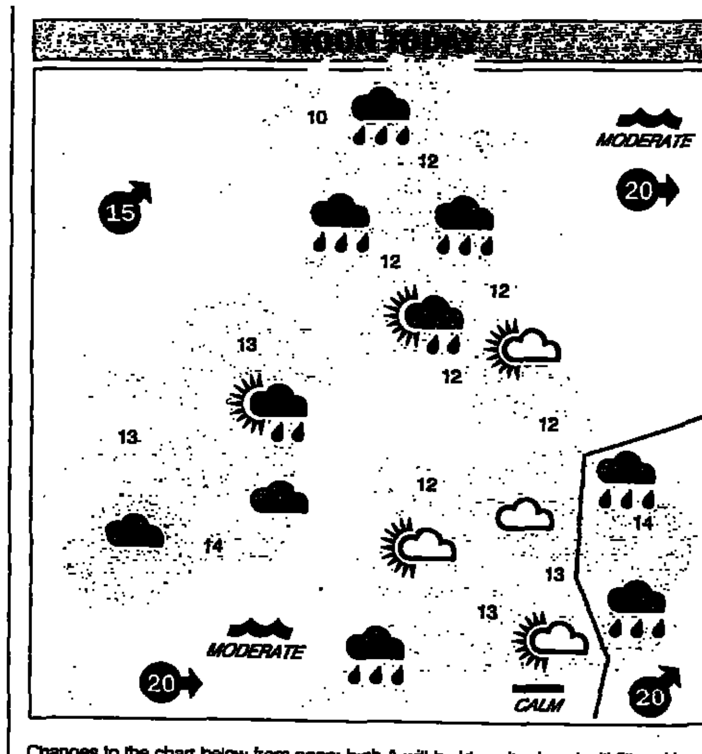
ABROAD



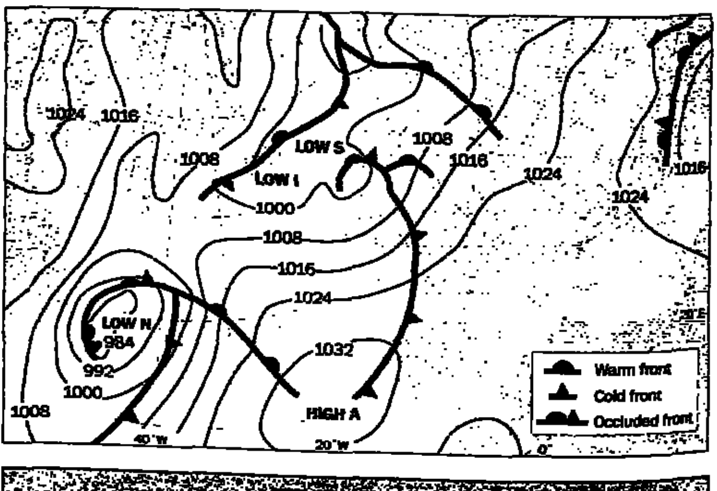
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	f	Cologne	21	70	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	18	64	s
Akrotiri	18	64	f	C'phagn	15	59	s	Majorca	19	66	f	Salzburg	15	59	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Corfu	15	59	h	Malaga	21	70	s	S Frisco	14	57	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Dublin	12	54	c	Malta	19	66	s	Santiago	19	66	f
Amst'dm	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melbourne	16	61	c	S Paulo	X		
Athens	17	63	f	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	13	55	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Florence	17	63	s	Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Frankfurt	19	66	s	Milan	20	68	s	Stockholm	12	54	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	7	45	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	17	63	f	Moscow	13	55	s	Sydney	19	66	r
Beijing	16	61	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	16	61	s	Tangier	18	64	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	5	41	r	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	20	68	f
Belgrade	14	57	f	Hong K	29	84	c	Naples	17	63	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	18	64	s	Innsbruck	17	63	s	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tokyo	21	70	f
Bermuda	21	70	s	Istanbul	13	55	f	N York	14	57	f	Toronto	5	41	c
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	16	61	f	Tunis	20	68	f
Bordeaux	20	68	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	7	45	f	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	17	63	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Budapest	13	55	c	Le Tquet	13	55	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	16	61	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Lisbon	18	64	f	Prague	15	59	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cairo	23	73	f	Locarno	18	64	f	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Warsaw	16	61	s
Cape Tn	X			L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	22	72	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxembg	16	61	s	Rio de J	29	84	s	Wellngton	20	68	X
Ch'church	21	70	X	Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	37	99	s	Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A will build in situ. Low I will fill and become indistinct. Low N will deepens as it moves towards the Denmark Strait. Low S will deepen slightly as it drifts across southern Norway



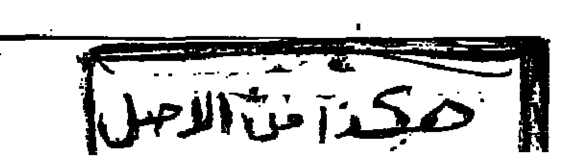
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:15	3.8	16:39	3.7	Liverpool	1:55	8.6	14:12	8.3
Avonmouth	9:59	11.7	22:12	11.3	London Bridge	4:47	6.8	17:03	6.8
Belfast	1:53	3.2	14:20	3.2	Lowestoft	0:21	2.3	12:35	2.2
Cardiff	9:45	10.9	21:58	10.6	Margate	2:47	4.5	15:01	4.4
Devonport	8:39	5.0	20:55	4.9	Milford Haven	9:06	6.1	21:22	5.9
Dover	1:41	6.2	13:56	6.0	Newquay	8:00	6.2	20:16	6.0
Dublin	2:24	3.7	14:59	3.6	Oban	8:21	3.4	20:51	3.4
Falmouth	8:10	4.8	20:26	4.7	Penzance	7:27	4.9	19:45	4.8
Greenock	3:25	3.0	15:30	3.0	Portland	9:37	1.5	21:44	1.5
Harwich	2:36	3.6	14:51	3.5	Portsmouth	2:04	4.3	14:22	4.1
Holyhead	1:05	5.1	13:23	4.9	Shoreham	1:50	5.6	13:58	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	9:12	8.0	21:32	7.8	Southampton	1:37	4.2	13:58	4.1
Ilfracombe	8:47	8.1	21:03	7.9	Swansea	9:08	11.1	21:27	10.9
King's Lynn	9:12	5.9	21:25	5.8	Tees	6:40	9.5	19:04	9.4
Leith	5:42	4.9	18:07	4.8	Walton-On-Naze	2:33	3.9	14:46	3.8

All times GMT Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Chivenor (Devon) 18C (64F); lowest day max: St Bees Head (Cumbria) 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Lusta (Isle of Skye) 0.59ins; highest sunshine: Jersey (Channel Islands) 5.5hrs.



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Check your scores
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Reasons to be cheerful
Putting a smile back on the face of British tennis
Page 27

Win bonus
Also-ran speeds his way to £1/4 m prize
Page 30

ARTS
KEANU REEVES back in sci-fi action Page 32

TIMES SPORT
TUESDAY APRIL 6 1999

Everton's escape route cut off by Carbone



by Keith Pike

THEY have been playing with fire for so long that Everton must fear that their fingers will get burnt eventually. After 45 consecutive seasons of top-flight football, this could be the year that they go down in flames.

Everton's fourth successive defeat yesterday, greeted by loud and thoroughly deserved derision by their supporters, plunged them into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership. On Saturday, they had battled hard if unavailingly against Liverpool: the chances are that the only Merseyside derby next season will be between these sickly Toffees and Tranmere Rovers.

After a tolerably proficient first-half performance, in which Francis Jeffers's twelfth-minute strike represented something of a Goodison Park goal feast, Everton's subsequent decline bore all the hallmarks of a team destined for relegation.

Sheffield Wednesday took control and eventually took all three points, too, courtesy of a couple of defensive howlers that would not have been out of place over at Stanley Park in a Sunday morning pub game. Victory ended their own

run of five consecutive defeats and means that they are probably one more win from safety.

But for Everton, the prospects are grim. Four times in the past six seasons, they have flirted with danger and when they trooped, crestfallen, off the pitch to find that Graham Stuart, one of their former players, had scored the goal that gave Charlton Athletic victory away to West Ham United and condemned Walter Smith's team to eighteenth position, that dalliance had developed into a full-blown affair.

Everton can still save themselves. Of their six remaining matches, two are at home against their fellow strugglers, Coventry City and Charlton, but the doomsday scenario shared by increasingly distraught supporters has Everton playing Southampton at The Dell on the last Sunday of the season needing to win to survive. Last season, they stayed up on goal difference: this time, that may prove beyond them.

For Smith, after a decade of trophy-hunting with Rangers, this is a new and unpleasant experience. "It was a disappointing result, but even more so when you consider the manner in which we lost it," he said. "We handed Wednesday the game."

Wednesday's equaliser, in the 52nd minute, was a gift pure and simple; their winner 16 minutes later came with ribbons and bows attached. The guilty men on both occasions were Marco Materazzi and David Unsworth, defenders with a combined transfer fee approaching £6 million. They held their heads in collective shame — and were entitled to for the first goal.

Materazzi's initial half-hearted clearance was fraught with danger and Unsworth compounded the error with an extravagant miskick that presented Benito Carbone with a clear shooting opportunity. The Italian seized on the opening, sending a low, right-foot drive beyond Myhre's right hand and inside the far post.

The roles were reversed for the second goal. Unsworth failed with a routine header, Materazzi made a pig's ear of his attempted back-pass and Carbone stole in grateful and unguarded again.

There was no way back for Everton, who withdrew Materazzi, switched to three at the back and flooded midfield. But their heart as well as their composure had gone and Wednesday coasted through the closing stages with ease.

The first half had been so much more promising. With Campbell a prominent spearhead and Gemmill delivering a series of precise passes, the two newcomers had caught the eye on their home debuts alongside Dacourt in midfield. Everton fully deserved the lead given them by Jeffers, 18, who lobbed the ball calmly into an empty net from 18 yards when Campbell's aerial challenge on Srnicek dislodged the ball from the Wednesday goalkeeper's grasp. It was only Everton's tenth goal in 24 hours of football at Goodison this season.

"We were desperate to win today and in the end I think we deserved it," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, said. "We can't relax just yet, but this has made it a lot easier for us." For Everton and Smith, the agony is destined to continue for some time.

EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — D Weir, C Short, M Materazzi (sub: P Degn, 74 min), D Unsworth — S Gemmill, A Grant (sub: M Ball, 74), O Dacourt, N Barmby (sub: I Bakayoko, 76) — F Jeffers, K Campbell.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, J Newsome, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson (sub: P Scott, 79), D Sonner, W Jonk, P Rudi — A Booth, B Carbone (sub: R Cresswell, 80).
Referee: M Reed

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Jumping into history

High flyer: Richard Dunwoody leaps from Yorkshire Edition after breaking the record for career victories. Report, page 29

Daley rubs salt into grievous wound

Birmingham City 1
Watford 2

By Chris Moore

GOALS from two former Aston Villa players made Birmingham City's first home defeat for five months all the less palatable yesterday as Watford enhanced their own prospects of making the Nationwide League first division play-offs.

On a day when Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, was tactically outmanoeuvred by Graham Taylor, his opposite number, the former England manager's decision to recall Tony Daley and Tommy Mooney, who began their careers across the city at Villa Park, proved to be a masterstroke and helped to produce a victory that leaves Watford only four points off a place among the top six.

Taylor has enjoyed six promotion-winning campaigns during his career, including hauling Watford up from the second division as champions last season, and, on this evidence, they cannot be underestimated during the run-in.

"We've still got it all to do, but if we keep winning, who knows what might still happen for us," Taylor said. "When you get to this stage of the season, the teams in the play-off positions can start to get a bit edgy. Right now, being in a chasing position might suit us better than having to be looking over our shoulder. We've got a massive game coming up next against Bolton at home on Saturday and, if we beat them, we'll be only one point behind and back in business."

Birmingham had been beaten in only one of their previous 17 games, but without Dele Adebola and Paul Furlong, their injured heavyweight strikers, lacked the physical presence to strengthen their challenge for an automatic promotion position.

Daley, who has been playing for his "digs' money" for most of the season, came up trumps in only his sixth start for the club by laying on the opening goal in the 26th minute, the non-stop Mooney heading home his deep cross at the far post.

Mooney repaid the compliment in the 58th minute, providing an inch-perfect cross for Daley to score with a rare header. David Holdsworth cut the deficit with a close-range header in the 87th minute, but it was too little, too late.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass (sub: N Forster, 61min), D Holdsworth, M Johnson, S Charlton (sub: J McCarthy, 61) — B Hughes, G Hyde, M O'Connor, M Granger — L Bradbury (sub: H Forinton, 69), P Ndlovu.

WATFORD (4-3-3): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Page, P Robinson — A Hazan (sub: M Hyde, 46), R Johnson, P Kennedy — A Daley (sub: A Bonnot, 78), T Mooney, A Smart.

Referee: J Kirby

Bradford can thank Windass

DEAN WINDASS was on target as Bradford City kept up the pressure on Ipswich Town in the fight for an automatic promotion place from the Nationwide League first division with a 2-0 victory at Gigg Lane (Mel Webb writes).

Windass, signed from Oxford United, scored both Bradford's goals in a scrappy, untidy game that extended Bury's dismal run to a club record-equalling 19 games without a victory.

Beagrie and Sharpe, the Bradford wingers, tormented the Bury defence and Beagrie made the first goal in the 28th minute with a cross that Windass headed in at the near post. Beagrie exchanged short passes with Jacobs from a corner two minutes before half-time and Windass again headed home at the near post.

In the second division, Gillingham moved up to fifth place as goals from Ashby and Asaba accounted for Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park, but Stoke City lost more ground in the contest for a play-off place in a dull 1-1 draw away to Chesterfield, whereas Wigan Athletic kept their challenge alive by beating Oldham Athletic 2-0 at Springfield Park.

Cardiff City, leaders of the third division, were given an early shock when Alcide gave Hull City the lead at Ninian Park, but Nugent equalised with a penalty 16 minutes from time.

Brentford strengthened their grip on the third automatic promotion place with a 3-1 win over Plymouth Argyle. Goals from Evans and Mahon put them ahead, but Marshall pulled one back before Folan scored a third near the end.

Nationwide League: Carlisle United lose ground in battle for survival

Tate delights Scarborough gallery

Scarborough 3
Carlisle United 0

By Martin Woods

FRANK MALONEY, the manager of Lennox Lewis, was watching this game alongside Paul Ingle, his featherweight prospect from Scarborough, who challenges Naseem Hamed for the world title on Saturday. Such was the controversial first-half performance of Roger Furnandiz, the referee, that Maloney could have been forgiven for thinking he was back at Madison Square Gardens.

Furnandiz managed to upset both sets of supporters during a frantic opening half-hour by denying the visitors a penalty and failing to dismiss David Bass, of Carlisle United, for a foul on the Jones, the Scarborough forward, in the penalty area.

Unlike the Lewis v Evander Holyfield contest in New York, however, the home supporters were not embarrassed by the result and were grateful that Chris Tate, the Scarborough forward, was able to deliver the knockout blows with three well-taken goals. The margin of victory flattered the home team, but such quibbles fail to impress teams fighting for their future in the Nationwide League.

ROSS PARRY



Hoyland, right, of Scarborough, challenges strongly against Brightwell, of Carlisle at the McCain Stadium yesterday

Scarborough, who moved off bottom place in the third division after their 1-1 draw with Hull City on Saturday, were four points behind Carlisle with two games in hand before this game, but, in front of their biggest crowd of the season, home advantage compounded their nervousness and the visitors had the upper hand before conceding a sloppy goal to after 32 minutes.

A ball played in from the left wing confused three Carlisle defenders, allowing Tate to turn and fire home. Carlisle could have equalised six minutes later, when Bagshaw found Tracey unmarked in the penalty area, but he shot straight at Tony Parks, the Scarborough goalkeeper, from six yards.

Carlisle continued to press for the equaliser and, just before half-time, a header from Hopper went narrowly past the post.

Richard Knight, the Carlisle goalkeeper, kept his side in the game straight after the break with a superb save from Roberts and two minutes later the same forward forced Knight to make another good save after being put clear by Atkinson.

Carlisle were unable to muster an attack of their own as Scarborough continued to press forward and two further goals from Tate after 61 and 62 minutes settled the game. A superb cross from the left wing by Roberts found Tate, whoheaded powerfully past Knight, then Roberts set up the forward again to shoot home from the edge of the penalty area.

"I can't put a price on that victory — the boys were magnificent," Colin Addison, the Scarborough manager, said. "There were a few words said at half-time and the boys came out and did me proud. We deserved the three points."

Tate, who is on contract until the end of the season, said: "It was a battle. We didn't play our best football, but Tony Parks played brilliantly."

Scarborough are beginning to relish their fight for survival. Carlisle had better start learning soon.

SCARBOROUGH (4-4-2): T Parks — G Carr, S Rennison (sub: B Worrall, 49min), J Hoyland, G Atkinson — N Jones, G Porter, P Atkinson, S McAuley — C Tate (sub: A Savile, 85), D Roberts (sub: L Robinson 75).

CARLISLE UNITED (4-4-2): R Knight — R Bowman, D Brightwell, P Clark (sub: G McAlindon, 63), D Searle — R Prokas, S Whitehead, R Hopper (sub: G Anthony, 78), R Tracey — P Bagshaw, D Bass.

Referee: R Furnandiz

Preston keeps Manchester threat at bay



Moyes: happy with a point

Preston North End 1
Manchester City 1

By Stephen Wood

THERE is no question which side would have treasured this stalemate more yesterday. Preston North End and Manchester City fought each other to a standstill and the shared points ensured that Preston were able to keep City's challenge at the top of the Nationwide League second division at arm's length.

Both clubs entered the contest with contrasting form, so much so that City, with four consecutive victories, were beginning to dream of supplanting Preston as favourites for automatic promotion. Indeed, the implications of defeat were serious enough for the blood and thunder of this Lancashire derby to override the obligation for stylish football.

As the crowd of 20,857 — Preston's biggest at Deepdale in 25 years — roared their men on, so the players got caught up in a whirlwind that, alas, raged only sporadically in each penalty box. That did not ruin the spectacle altogether, however. The ferocity that characterised the midfield tussles was compelling — and it nearly got the better of Sean Gregan. Moments before half-time, the Preston captain appeared to elbow Michael Brown after Brown had committed a foul. Kevin Lynch, the referee, declined to take any action.

City had begun with a whimper, leaving Steve Basham, the Preston striker, on loan from Southampton, unmarked, and to head past Weaver, the City goalkeeper. Just 58sec had passed on the clock.

The City equaliser, after 22 minutes, owed something to luck. The ball broke outside the area to Brown, whose low shot was deflected in.

There were few further clear-cut chances, so both managers gambled on their reserves. Mark Robins, the former Manchester United striker, came on for his City debut, but he looked woefully unfit. For Preston, Jonathan Macken, another with United connections, looked more promising.

David Moyes, the Preston manager, said: "City are a big, physical side and we had to match them. We did that and I think we'll settle for a point."

PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): D Lucas — G Alexander, M Jackson, C Murdoch, N Clement — P McKenna, M Rankine (sub: M Appleton, 74min), S Gregan, D Eyres — K Nogan (sub: J Macken, 69), S Basham.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): N Weaver — L Crooks, A Morrison, T Vaughan, R Edghill — T Cooke, J Pollock (sub: I Bishop, 64), M Brown, K Horlock — S Goater, G Taylor (sub: M Robins, 57).

Referee: K Lynch

Osborn keeps Wolves in pack

Sheffield United 1
Wolverhampton Wand 1

By a Correspondent

THE destiny of Wolverhampton Wanderers — and what partisan supporters believe to be their rightful place in the FA Carling Premiership — remains firmly in their hands after a dramatic finale at Bramall Lane. The future of Colin Lee, their manager, is a little less clear, though.

His side has lost just once in 15 games since Boxing Day and, after taking this point from Sheffield United, will surely contest the Nationwide League first division play-offs. Yet, despite this record, the offer of the security provided by a long-term contract still eludes Lee, whose fate will be decided at the end of the season.

A 62nd-minute goal from Marcelo, the Brazilian striker, proved to be a false inspiration for Sheffield United's faltering promotion hopes. Marcelo was left with a tap-in from six yards after a run and cross by Lee Morris, the teenage midfield player.

Devlin should have added a second shortly afterwards, but his first touch, like many in the match, lacked composure and the chance was lost.

Wolves secured the point for which they had strived when Corica, a substitute, was fouled by Tebily on the edge of the penalty area with just five minutes remaining. After much debate and construction of the wall, Simon Osborn curled the free kick over it and beyond Alan Kelly, the Sheffield goalkeeper. Earlier, Kelly had made a fine save when Connolly and Robinson combined to put the latter through.

Robert Styles, the referee, booked seven players, five for Sheffield, in a game that lacked genuine passion. In the 86th minute, Rob Kozluk, the Sheffield full back, was sent off for a second bookable offence after he pushed Gilkes.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — R Kozluk, L Sandford, O Tebily, W Quinn — P Devlin, J Hunt, C Woodhouse (sub: A Jacobsen, 89min), L Morris (sub: S Derry, 86) — Marcelo, A Campbell (sub: P Katchouro, 40)

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (5-3-2): M Stowell — K Muscat, D Richards, K Curle, N Emblen, M Gilkes — C Robinson, S Osborn, S Sedgley — H Flo, D Connolly (sub: S Corica, 82).

Referee: R Styles

Ipswich show touch of steel

Ipswich Town 3
Queens Park Rangers 1

By Gordon Howard

AFTER successive disappointments in the play-offs in recent seasons, Ipswich Town confirmed yesterday that they are on course for an automatic return to the FA Carling Premiership with a deserved victory over Queens Park Rangers.

Their performance may not have contained the delights of their six-goal romp at Swindon on Saturday, but it was full of determination and it was their persistence which brought rewards after Rangers had taken an unexpected lead.

Rangers, although always well organised, could have no complaints, even though Ipswich did make a sloppy start and conceded a goal after only four minutes. Chris Kiwomya, the former Ipswich player, took advantage of some casual defending to glance a header past the helpless Richard Wright.

If Ipswich needed a wake-up call, to wipe out any complacency, this was it and they soon responded with an equaliser, Jim Magilton's deep cross finding David Johnson, who headed his fifteenth goal of the season.

After their bright start, Rangers appeared content to sit back and suffocate the Ipswich attack and the home side were clearly getting frustrated. Their diligence was rewarded in the 65th minute when James Scowcroft headed in a cross by Mark Venus for his thirteenth goal of the season. Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, promptly made two substitutions, but nine minutes later, Ipswich killed off the contest when Matt Holland struck their third with an angled 20-yard drive from the left of the penalty area.

George Kulcsar was cautioned for a clumsy tackle on Mick Stockwell and Kiwomya's eventful return to East Anglia concluded with his being shown a yellow card for a late tackle on Holland in the final minute.

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — J Cundy, A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, M Stockwell, J Magilton, M Holland, J Clapham — J Scowcroft (sub: R Naylor, 86min), D Johnson (sub: M Holster, 88)

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (5-3-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, D Maddix, S Morrow (sub: I Dowie, 68), K Ready (sub: A Linighan, 73), I Barraclough — G Kulcsar, G Peacock, P Murray — L Jeanne, C Kiwomya.

Referee: W Burns

Defiant Palace delay the inevitable

Crystal Palace 1
Sunderland 1

By Alyson Rudd

THE sense of impatience was palpable. Sunderland are bound for the FA Carling Premiership, they have been for many months, but the day that they can relax with promotion a mathematical certainty was delayed, albeit slightly, by this result.

After a first half in which Crystal Palace were the more inventive and sprightly team, thoroughly deserving their 35th-minute equaliser, Sunderland gave, during the second period, a far better impersonation of a side destined for greater things.

That Palace did not capitulate was testimony to the team spirit that Steve Coppell has instilled among players who have much to feel dispirited about. With their wallets brimming with IOUs and teammates leaving at an alarming rate to bring the wage bill down, a miserly effort from the home team might have been expected. Instead, they pulled together and irritated Sunderland with their pace and stamina.

Coppell has not only the administrators to contend with but the fact that two members of his shrinking squad are Serbs. Coppell's original view had been that the distraction was too great to risk playing either Curcic or Petric, but the latter's mother told her son to keep playing. Coppell fell in with her wishes and Petric defended admirably throughout, even surviving a spat with Quinn, during which, according to his manager, "he lost it for a bit".

Sunderland took the lead midway through the first half when Phillips met Johnston's corner kick to score with the simplest of headers. Palace responded with gusto: Fan Zhiyi crossed to Thomson, whose shot struck McKenzie. He turned on the loose ball and his effort was parried by Sorensen before being forced over the line by Morrison.

Kevin Miller, the Palace goalkeeper, was faultless in the second half, the pick of a crop of inspired saves coming in the 83rd minute. Clark, who seemed certain to score, instead passed to Johnston, who had time to pick his spot but found Miller equal to the challenge.

One of these clubs has a rosy future, the other faces one too bleak to dwell upon, but for 90 minutes at least, you would never have guessed it.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — D Woozley, H Mullins, G Petric — D Austin, S Thomson, C Foster, F Zhiyi, S Jihai — C Morrison, L McKenzie.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin (sub: D Holloway, 68min), P Butler, A Melville, M Gray — N Summerbee, K Ball, L Clark, A Johnston — N Quinn, K Phillips

Referee: A D'Urso

Bolton let play-off hopes slip

Bolton Wanderers 1
Stockport County 2

By Bill Edgar

THE revolving door that has taken Bolton Wanderers between the Nationwide League and the FA Carling Premiership seems to be coming off at the hinges. Prime candidates six weeks ago for automatic promotion from the first division, they have declined to the point where even a place in the play-offs may elude them.

This defeat at the Reebok Stadium yesterday means they have won only one of their past nine league games. They were, however, a little unfortunate not to get at least a draw against a Stockport County team that created few chances aside from the two that they converted.

Such was the quality of Bolton's midfield play that it was a surprise when County took the lead through Tony Ellis in the 27th minute, who put the finishing touches to a pass from Angell. Bolton equalised in the 48th minute when Johansen curled a cross towards Taylor, who hooked the ball home from six yards.

Nash saved well from Gardner and a home win seemed to be on the cards, but instead it was Stockport who had the winning hand. With 15 minutes left, Ellis was tackled in the Bolton area and Colin Woodthorpe drove the loose ball into the far corner.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): S Banks — N Cox, M Fish, P Warhurst, R Elliott — M Johansen, C Jensen, P Frandsen, R Gardner — R Taylor, D Holdsworth (sub: E Gudjohnsen, 46min).

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): C Nash — J Gannon, M Flynn, M McIntosh, A Dinning — T Bennett, D Smith, C Woodthorpe, K Cooper — B Angell (sub: I Moore, 83), A Ellis

Referee: G Laws.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Carling Premiership

COVENTRY (0) 1 Boateng 64 — SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 21,402
EVERTON (1) 1 Jeffers 12 35,270 — SHEFF WED (0) 2 Carbone 52, 68
MIDDLESBRO (3) 3 Ricard 1, 29, Festa 8 — WIMBLEDON (0) 1 Cort 75 33,999
NOTTM F (0) 2 Freedman 60, Van Hooijdonk 90 28,374 — LIVERPOOL (1) 2 Redknapp 15, Owen 72
WEST HAM (0) 0 26,041 — CHARLTON (0) 1 Stuart 75

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	31	18	10	3	69	32	64
Arsenal	31	16	12	3	42	13	60
Chelsea	30	16	11	3	45	23	59
Leeds	31	16	9	6	52	28	57
West Ham	32	13	8	11	34	40	47
A Villa	31	12	9	10	39	37	45
Derby	31	11	11	9	35	36	44
Liverpool	30	12	7	11	57	41	43
Middlesbro	31	10	13	8	42	41	43
*Newcastle	31	11	8	12	42	44	41
Wimbledon	32	10	11	11	36	48	41
*Tottenham	30	9	12	9	34	36	39
Sheff Wed	32	11	5	16	38	36	38
Leicester	29	9	10	10	30	37	37
Coventry	32	10	7	15	34	43	37
Charlton	31	7	10	14	34	41	31
Blackburn	31	7	10	14	32	42	31
Everton	32	7	10	15	26	40	31
Southampton	32	8	6	18	28	57	30
Nottm F	32	4	9	19	30	64	21

*Does not include last night's match

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido 1 Carmarthen Town 1, Caernarfon 1 Bangor City 0; Caersws 1 Newtown 1, Connah's Quay 4 Holywell 2; Haverfordwest 2 Aberystwyth 6; Rhayader Town 0 Total Network Solutions 0; Rhyl 0 Conwy 3

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena 1 Omagh 2; Coleraine 3 Newry 0

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth 0 Shifnal T 1, Halesowen H 0 Stourport S 1, Knypersley V 0 Rocester 0, Oldbury U 1 Chasetown 1, Pershore T 1 Stratford T 1, Rushall O 0 Pelsall V 0, Sandwell 0 Kings Norton 3, Stapenhill 0 Barwell 1, Wednesfield 0 Willenhall 2, W Mid Police 2 Boldmere St M 0

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 2 Hartley Wintney 1, Ash 2 Chessington and Hook 1, Ashford 1 Bedfont 0; Cobham 5 Westfield 0, Cranleigh 6 Feltham 3, Godalming and Guildford 3 Netherne 1; Raynes Park Vale 0 Reading 1, Sandhurst 2 Cove 1; Viking Sports 4 Farnham 2, Walton Casuals 2 Chipstead 1

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 2 Atherton Collieries 2, Bootle 1 Prescot Cables 2, Glossop North End 1 Mossley 1, Holker Old Boys 0 Workington 2, Leek CSOB 1 Nantwich 0, Rossendale 0 Ramsbottom 2, Salford 2 Maine Road 1, St Helens 0 Skelmersdale 6, Vauxhall GM 5 Cheadle 2

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 1 Morpeth 1, Dunston Federation 1 Shildon 1, Jarrow Roofing 1 Billingham S 1; Marske 1 Guisborough 2

Nationwide League — First division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 Holdsworth 87 24,877 — WATFORD (1) 2 Mooney 26, Daley 58
BOLTON (0) 1 Taylor 49 18,587 — STOCKPORT (1) 2 Ellis 22, Woodthorpe 75
BURY (0) 0 8,000 — BRADFORD (2) 2 Windass 28, 43
C PALACE (1) 1 Morrison 34 22,096 — SUNDERLAND (1) 1 Phillips 23
GRIMSBY (0) 0 6,302 — NORWICH (1) 1 Mulryne 35
HUDD'SFIELD (0) 1 Lawson 80 11,719 — SWINDON (1) 2 Howe 19, Hay 67
IPSWICH (1) 3 Johnson 12, Scowcroft 65, Holland 75 — QPR (1) 1 Kiwomya 4 22,162
PORT VALE (1) 1 Foyle 8 — BARNSLEY (0) 0 5,968
PORTSMTH (0) 0 13,026 — BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 Locke 86
SHEFF UTD (0) 1 Marcelo 62 21,761 — WOLVRHMPTN (0) 1 Osborn 86
Sent off: R Kozluk (Sheff Utd) 88
TRANMERE (2) 2 Irons 4 (pen), 24 (pen) 7,837 — OXFORD UTD (0) 2 Weatherstone 74, Gilchrist 87
WEST BROM (0) 1 Sneekes 63 12,308 — CREWE (2) 5 D Wright 13, J Wright 24, 54, Johnson 51, Rivers 83

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	40	26	11	3	78	24	89
Ipswich	40	24	7	9	63	26	79
Bradford	40	23	7	10	71	39	76
Birmingham	40	19	12	9	60	33	69
Wolvrhmptn	40	18	12	10	59	36	66
Bolton	39	17	14	8	69	52	65
Watford	40	16	13	11	55	52	61
Sheff Utd	40	15	12	13	63	59	57
Huddersfld	41	14	14	13	57	64	56
C Palace	41	14	14	13	55	60	56
West Brom	40	15	8	17	62	67	53
Norwich	40	13	14	13	52	53	53
Grimsby	38	15	8	15	36	43	53
Barnsley	41	12	15	14	51	49	51
Tranmere	41	11	17	13	56	55	50
Stockport	40	11	16	13	45	48	49
Swindon	40	11	10	19	53	74	43
Portsmth	41	10	13	18	50	63	43
QPR	39	10	11	18	43	51	41
Oxford Utd	41	9	13	19	41	65	40
Port Vale	39	11	5	23	39	70	38
Crewe	40	9	10	21	48	75	37
Bury	40	7	16	17	29	53	37
Bristol City	39	7	14	18	48	70	35

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 2 Walton 2, Felixstowe Port and Town 3 Stowmarket 1, Great Yarmouth 0 Gorleston 1, Histon 0 Warboys 2, Ipswich 1 Harwich and Parkeston 2, Lowestoft 4 Woodbridge 1, Maldon 1 Halstead 1, Newmarket 0 Bury Town 0, Soham 1 Ely 1, Sudbury 2 Sudbury Wanderers 1

Second division

BRISTOL R (0) 1 Penrice 64 6,580 — NORTHMPTN (1) 1 Corazzin 6
Sent off: I Hendon (Northampton) 58
BURNLEY (0) 3 Johnrose 57, Payton 82, 89 — COLCHESTER (1) 1 Gregory 26 10,747
Sent off: L Lua-Lua (Colchester) 54
CHESTRFLD (1) 1 Blatherwick 26 5,290 — STOKE (1) 1 Oldfield 32
LINCOLN (0) 0 5,745 — NOTTS CO (0) 1 Tierney 67
MILLWALL (1) 1 Harris 8 — BLACKPOOL (0) 0 6,672
PRESTON (1) 1 Basham 1 20,857 — MAN CITY (1) 1 Brown 22
READING (0) 0 18,741 — FULHAM (0) 1 Morgan 77
WIGAN (1) 2 Haworth 27, Bradshaw 90 (pen) — OLDHAM (0) 0 4,754
Sent off: P Mardon (Oldham) 85
WYCOMBE (0) 0 6,688 — GILLINGHAM (0) 2 Ashby 68, Asaba 74

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	38	27	6	5	64	26	87
Preston	39	21	10	8	69	37	73
Walsall	37	21	8	8	53	40	71
Man City	40	18	15	7	54	29	69
Gillingham	39	18	14	7	63	35	68
Bournemth	38	19	10	9	59	36	67
Wigan	37	18	7	12	57	36	61
Stoke	38	19	4	15	49	45	61
Millwall	39	16	10	13	46	45	58
Chestrfld	38	16	10	12	44	38	58
Reading	40	15	12	13	49	52	57
Wrexham	37	12	11	14	38	51	47
Luton	38	12	10	16	44	52	46
Blackpool	39	11	13	15	35	45	46
Notts Co	38	12	9	17	44	53	45
Bristol R	39	9	15	15	49	47	42
Burnley	39	10	12	17	44	69	42
Colchester	39	9	15	15	42	58	42
York	38	10	9	19	46	67	39
Oldham	39	10	8	21	38	56	38
Wycombe	39	9	10	20	41	51	37
Northmptn	39	8	13	18	31	47	37
Lincoln	38	10	6	22	34	62	36
Macclsfld	37	8	9	20	30	48	33

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackstone 1 Bourne 0; Cogenhoe 2 Wellingborough 0; Desborough 1 S and L Corby 1, Eynesbury 0 St Neots 0, Ford Sports 3 Long Buckby 1, Holbeach 0 Boston 3, Kempston 1 Wootton 2, Stotfold 3 Potton 0, Yaxley 2 Spalding 2

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 1 Horsham YMCA 4; Burgess Hill 4 Hassocks 0, East Preston 0 Shoreham 2, Langney Sports 1 Eastbourne Town 1, Pagham 2 Selsey 0, Portfield 1 Chichester 1, Whitehawk 0 Saltdean 2; Wick 2 Littlehampton 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray 0 Beckenham 0; Deal 0 Ramsgate 0, Greenwich 3 Erith 0, Herne Bay 1 Whitstable 1, Hythe 0 Tunbridge Wells 0; Lordswood 1 Chatham 2, VCD0 Thamesmead 0

Third division

BRENTFORD (2) 3 Evans 42, Mahon 45, Folan 89 — PLYMOUTH (0) 1 Marshall 80 6,979
Sent off: P Gibbs (Plymouth) 90
CARDIFF (0) 1 Nugent 74 (pen) 8,252 — HULL (1) 1 Alcide 25
Sent off: W Joyce (Hull) 78
CHESTER (2) 3 Murphy 11, Crosby 25 (pen), Beckett 48 — BARNET (0) 0 2,122
Sent off: R Sawyers (Barnet) 25
EXETER (1) 1 Wilkinson 24 2,764 — L ORIENT (0) 1 Watschaerts 64
HALIFAX (0) 0 2,759 — ROCHDALE (0) 0
PETERBORO (0) 0 5,107 — DARLINGTON (1) 1 Gabbiadini 33
ROTHERHAM (0) 1 Fortune-West 51 — SWANSEA (0) 0 4,257
Sent off: N Cusack (Swansea) 90
SCARBORO (1) 3 Tate 31, 61, 62 — CARLISLE (0) 0 3,604
TORQUAY (0) 0 2,897 — MANSFIELD (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Cardiff	40	20	11	9	56	34	71
Cambs Utd	37	20	8	9	65	40	68
Brentford	38	21	4	13	62	51	67
Scunthpe	38	19	5	14	61	52	62
Rotherham	38	17	10	11	69	50	61
L Orient	38	16	12	10	52	47	60
Mansfield	39	17	8	14	55	55	59
Plymouth	39	16	9	14	48	38	57
Swansea	38	15	12	11	44	40	57
Peterboro	40	16	8	16	61	52	56
Halifax	39	14	14	11	51	46	56
Darlington	38	15	8	15	56	49	53
Chester	40	12	16	12	50	54	52
Exeter	38	13	11	14	37	38	50
Barnet	39	13	9	17	48	62	48
Shrwsbury	38	12	12	14	43	50	48
Rochdale	39	12	12	15	36	45	48
Brighton	39	14	5	20	43	58	47
Southend	39	12	10	17	45	51	46
Torquay	40	10	16	14	42	49	46
*Hull	40	12	9	19	39	58	45
Carlisle	40	10	12	18	36	45	42
Scarboro	38	12	5	21	42	64	41
Hartlpool	38	9	10	19	44	61	37

*Does not include last night's match

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Alc Newbury 1 Thatcham 0; Totton 3 BAT 2, Brockenhurst 1 Lymington and New Milton 2; Downton 0 Wimborne 2, Gosport 3 Fareham 3, Hamble ASSC 5 Eastleigh 2, Portsmouth RN 2 Money Fields 0, Whitchurch 4 Bemerton Heath Harl 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Milton Keynes 2 New Bradwell St Peter 2, Somersett Ambury 0 Toddington 1

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood 3 Eton Manor 2, Concord 0 Bowers 4, East Ham 1 Ilford 1, Great Wakering 3 Southend Manor 1; Hullbridge Sports 4 Basildon 1, Saffron Walden 3 Burnham Ramblers 2, Stansted 0 Sawbridgeworth 1

Nationwide Conference

CHELTENHAM (0) 1 Grayson 55 — KIDDRMNSTR (0) 0 4,518
DONCASTER (0) 0 3,595 — HEDNESFORD (1) 1 Kimmins 32
FARNBORO (0) 0 870 — YEOVIL (0) 0
HEREFORD (0) 4 Williams 53, Cook 56, Evans 84, Wright 90 — FOREST G (0) 0 1,735
KETTERING (0) 1 McNamara 74 2,463 — STEVENAGE (1) 2 Alford 12, Leadbeater 64
KINGSTONIAN (1) 1 Rattray 6 — DOVER (0) 0 904
NORTHWICH (1) 1 Vicary 1 — BARROW (0) 0 1,107
Sent off: G Challender (Barrow) 88
SOUTHPORT (0) 1 Trundle 58 — MORECAMBE (0) 0 1,427
Sent off: D McKearney (Morecambe) 48, A Hughes (Morecambe) 49
TELFORD (0) 2 Murphy 52, Huckerby 90 — LEEK (0) 0 847
WELLING (0) 0 663 — HAYES (2) 2 Charles 4, Randall 20
WOKING (1) 1 Payne 43 2,808 — RUSHDEN & D (0) 1 Foster 71

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheltenham	36	20	12	4	64	29	72
Kettering	40	20	10	10	55	36	70
Rushden	37	19	11	7	63	35	68
Hayes	37	19	7	11	54	45	64
Yeovil	35	16	11	8	55	43	59
Kingstonian	35	15	12	8	47	42	57
Northwich	35	16	7	12	50	41	55
Stevenage	36	13	16	7	47	40	55
Dover	38	14	12	12	52	45	54
Hednesford	36	13	14	9	44	39	53
Woking	36	14	9	13	40	38	51
Forest Green	34	13	10	11	49	39	49
Kiddrmnstr	37	12	9	16	49	45	45
Hereford	38	12	9	17	43	44	45
Doncaster	38	11	11	16	47	51	44
Morecambe	37	12	7	18	52	70	43
Telford	37	9	14	14	41	53	41
Southport	36	8	15	13	41	53	39
Barrow	37	9	9	19	34	57	36
Leek	36	8	8	20	42	56	32
Welling	37	6	12	19	35	60	30
Farnborough	38	6	11	21	40	63	29

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 1 North Leigh 3, Almondsbury 3 Fairford 0, Hallen 6 Bicester 2, Harrow Hill 0 Didcot 1, Kintbury 1 Tuffley 5

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Sutton 1 Tiverton 2; Melksham 0 Barnstaple 1; Paulton 1 Odd Down 1, Taunton 3 Bridgwater 1, Yeovil TR 2 Bideford 0.

Scottish League — Third division

DUMBARTON (1) 6 Stewart 24, Jack 51, King 55, 58, Flannery 62, Smith 64 — COWDNBTH (0) 1 Brown 78 650

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross Co	31	21	5	5	77	34	68
Stenhsmur	31	15	7	9	54	37	52
Brechin	31	14	8	9	41	39	50
Dumbarton	31	13	9	9	46	37	48
Albion	31	12	8	11	42	51	44
Berwick	31	9	12	10	40	43	39
Queen's Pk	31	9	10	12	36	40	37
East Stirling	31	8	11	12	44	42	35
Montrose	31	7	6	18	35	62	27
Cowdnbth	31	6	6	19	29	59	24

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley 2 Lancaster 0; Colwyn Bay 1 Altrincham 1, Emley 0 Guiseley 1, Frickley 1 Spennymoor 2, Gateshead 0 Blyth Spartans 1, Hyde 3 Whitby 2; Leigh RMI 0 Marine 0, Runcorn 0 Winsford 1; Worksop 1 Gainsborough 1. **Leading positions:** 1, Worksop 37-68, 2, Altrincham 36-67, 3, Gateshead 38-62; 4, Bamber Bridge 38-61, 5, Guiseley 34-60; 6, Hyde Utd 37-57. **First division:** Alfreton 0 Burscough 1, Ashton 1 Droylsden 1, Farsley Celtic 0 Bradford PA 2; Great Harwood 2 Congleton 2, Harrogate Town 1 Radcliffe 2, Hucknall 3 Eastwood Town 0; Stocksbridge PS 3 Lincoln 2, Trafford 1 Flixton 0, Whitley Bay 0 Gretna 2, Witton 1 Netherfield Kendal 0

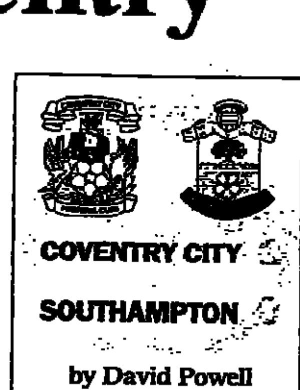
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath 0 Dorchester 1, Cambridge City 0 Crawley 0; Grantham 1 Boston 3, Hastings 3 Salisbury 2, King's Lynn 2 Rothwell 0, Weymouth 0 Merthyr 0. **Leading positions:** 1, Nuneaton 37-79, 2, Gloucester City 37-62, 3, Ilkeston Tn 36-59, 4, Boston Utd 35-55, 5, Salisbury 37-55, 6, Hastings 36-54. **Midland division:** Blakenall 1 Bilston 1, Cinderford 1 Clevedon 4, Hinckley 0 Wisbech 0, Redditch 1 RC Warwick 1; Shepshed Dynamo 2 Bedworth 0, Stafford 4 Bloxwich 0, Stamford AFC 2 VS Rugby 1, Stourbridge 1 Paget 1, Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Solihull Boro 1, Weston-super-Mare 2 Newport AFC 0. **Southern division:** Andover 0 Fleet 0; Ashford 3 St Leonards 0, Brackley 2 Corby 2; Cirencester 1 Witney 1, Erith and Belvedere 2 Dartford 0, Fisher 1 Chelmsford 0; Havant and Waterlooville 3 Bashley 0; Margate 1 Folkestone Invicta 0, Newport IoW 4 Yate 0, Raunds 1 Baldock 1

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot Town 0 Basingstoke 1, Billericay 2 Heybridge Swifts 1, Bishop's Stortford 2 Boreham Wood 0; Chesham 1 Aylesbury 0; Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Bromley 2; Hampton 2 Walton and Hersham 0, Purfleet 3 Dag and Red 0, Slough 1 Dulwich 0, St Albans 2 Enfield 1, Sutton United 3 Carshalton 0. **Leading positions:** 1, Sutton Utd 35-74, 2, Aylesbury 36-73, 3, Purfleet 37-66, 4, Dag and Red 36-63, 5, Enfield 36-61, 6, St Albans 35-57. **First division:** Barton 0 Hitchin 0, Bognor Regis 1 Worthing 2; Braintree 0 Canvey Island 2; Chertsey 1 Staines 1; Croydon 2 Leatherhead 0; Oxford City 0 Maidenhead 1; Romford 2 Grays 2; Wealdstone 5 Berkhamsted 2, Whyteleafe 1 Molesey 3, Yeading 0 Uxbridge 1

FA Carling Premiership: Two strugglers gain welcome victories in fight to stay in top flight

Relegation skies start to clear over Coventry

LIKE the clock on the scoreboard, which was turning its hands faster than time was passing yesterday — it ran up four hours during the second half — Coventry City have got ahead of themselves. Traditionally, if it is April, the clouds of relegation should be hovering over Highfield Road, but they are being dispersed unusually early. Blue skies are accompanying the Sky Blues into the last six weeks of the season.



by David Powell

A 65th-minute goal by George Boateng settled this tense and sometimes scrappy FA Carling Premiership match against a team that now appears to have one foot in the Nationwide League. If there was to be a goal, it was fair, on the balance of chances, that it should be scored by Coventry. A right-wing cross from Gary Breen found Trond Soltvedt unmarked and the Norwegian's header forced a fine save out of Neil Moss, the Southampton reserve goalkeeper, who was standing in for the injured Paul Jones. Boateng, though, was first to the loose ball.

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Coventry thus took their thirteenth point from their past six games to move four places clear of the relegation zone. Not that Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, is making assumptions about being back for another Premiership season come August. "Safe now, Gordon?" he was asked. "Have you ever been to Coventry?" his inquisitor was asked.

Victory here would have taken Southampton out of the bottom three for the first time this season and, with hindsight, David Jones, their manager, probably wishes he had played Matthew Le Tissier from the start, rather than from the beginning of the second half. The Coventry goal had one narrow escape in the first half, a shot from James Beattie being deflected for a corner, but not until Le Tissier came on did the danger light change from amber to red.

Le Tissier replaced Wayne Bridge wide on the left and, within three minutes of appearing, produced a telling cross from which Beattie directed a header low to Magnus Hedman's right. The Coventry goalkeeper responded with an athletic, one-handed save. Twice in three minutes in the final quarter, as Southampton searched for an equaliser, Le Tissier tested the nerves of the Coventry faithful.

From a cross by Hassan Kachloul, Le Tissier headed over. Then Hedman went down smartly to his left to keep out a volley from the Southampton man. Asked why Le Tissier, returning from suspension, had not played the 90 minutes, Jones said: "Because the lads who played on Saturday performed well and I lost Ripley and Ostenstad, so it was a case of not making too many changes."

Perhaps Jones had forgotten that it was Le Tissier who had made the difference in the 2-1 home victory over Coventry back in October. On that occasion, he made one and scored one.

The Bank Holiday weekend served only to underline the contrast in Southampton's form at home and away. They drew with Arsenal at The Dell on Saturday, but yesterday suffered their twelfth defeat in 16 Premiership away fixtures. "If I could put my finger on the reason why, I would have done so a long time ago," Jones said.

He blamed a combination of his players, for "switching off" at certain times, and Uriah Rennie, the referee. "He makes up his own rules as he goes along," Jones said. "He has given out bookings and silly free kicks." Though critical of his team's lackadaisical approach to the first half, Jones added: "In the second half, we had a go."

Coventry were also vexed by Rennie, but at least their supporters had their moment of fun. After booking Boateng for kicking the ball away, the third Coventry player to have his name taken, Rennie dropped his collection of cards on the pitch.

For Coventry, Soltvedt came in for the injured Steve Froggatt and Strachan felt that he had a "fantastic" game. Breen, on the other hand, had the kind of match to forget. He had a header cleared off the line by David Hughes, fired one over and, presented by Darren Huckerby with a perfect cross to his feet, put his shot wide.

The lion's share of chances fell to Coventry. Boateng missed the target, with Moss beaten, after Ken Monkou's half-clearance. Monkou had to be rescued by Moss when his back-header angled towards goal and the goalkeeper also saved well from a firm drive by Noel Whelan.

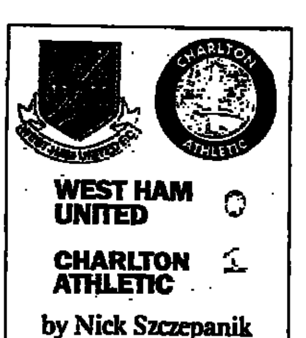
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — G Breen, P Williams, R Shaw, D Burrows — G Boateng, G McAllister, T Soltvedt, P Telfer — N Whelan, D Huckerby (sub: S Gioacchini, 87min)
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): N Moss — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter — S Hiley, D Hughes, C Marsden, W Bridge (sub: M Le Tissier, 46) — J Beattie (sub: M Pahars, 70), M Hughes (sub: H Kachloul, 77).
Referee: U Rennie



Sitting target: Boateng takes a relaxed view after scoring the winning goal for Coventry City at Highfield Road

Stuart gives Charlton lift towards security

GRAHAM STUART knows all about scoring important goals. His late strike against Wimbledon at Goodison Park on the last day of the 1993-94 season kept Everton in the top flight. If his 75th-minute winner at Upton Park yesterday proves to have helped do the same for Charlton Athletic, the £1 million that they paid Sheffield United for him just before the transfer deadline could prove one of the best investments of recent seasons.



by Nick Szczepanik

In truth, Stuart owed his new employers a goal. In a game of squandered chances, he had been guilty of the biggest howler, powder-puffing Mark Bowen's low cross into the hands of Shaka Hislop in the 43rd minute with the goal at his mercy.

By then, Charlton had lost John Robinson, carried off with a leg injury, and were to see Sasa Ilic, their goalkeeper, taken away on a stretcher with head and knee injuries after a collision with Marc Keller. The West Ham man had followed a high parry by Ilic of a shot by Frank Lampard into the net. Charlton's relief when Steve Dunn, the referee, spotted an upraised flag was short-lived as the extent of Ilic's difficulties became clear. Both Charlton players were taken to hospital for X-rays, but neither is thought to have suffered lasting damage.

Apart from a wobble from Petterson, the replacement goalkeeper, soon after half-time, when Pearce headed past him only for Danny Mills to clear the danger, Charlton did not seem to be adversely affected by the departures and continued to attack, Martin Pringle, Bowen and Andy Hunt all forcing excellent saves from Hislop.

However, it was anything but one-way traffic. West Ham, although missing the creativity of Eyal Berkovic until his late appearance as a substitute, nevertheless threatened whenever Paolo Di Canio was given time to play a selection of exquisitely weighted passes; unfortunately, Paul Kitson, who seemed to be on the end of most of these moves, was having an off-day.

Just when it seemed that logic would be defied and a ridiculously open game would finish goalless, Rufus headed on a free kick by Mills, Minto and Hislop hesitated and Stuart, on his second appearance for the club, nipped in behind them to head into the empty net.

"We never felt it was going to come," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "He [Stuart] had missed a glorious chance and was very upset with himself at half-time."

An alleged post-match altercation in the tunnel involving Neil Ruddock and Carl Tiler could feature in the referee's report, but of more interest was the performance of John Barnes, who would probably not have played his first full 90 minutes for Charlton (nearer 100, as it turned out) if two substitutes had not been used before half-time. He finished limping, but had shown rare composure before the legs finally gave up.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, who has seen Charlton beat his team twice this season, said: "They gave it a go. I've said from day one that they wouldn't go down."

Charlton's win, their first in five games, took them up three places to sixteenth, two positions above the relegation zone, but they have a tough programme to come, including visits from Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur, and fixtures against Everton and Blackburn, teams also threatened by relegation, so Curbishley is not getting carried away.



Stuart: vital goal

"There's a long way to go for us," he said. "I felt on Saturday against Chelsea it was a bit passionless for a local derby and we gave them too much respect. Today was a gutsy, full-of-pride performance."

Part of Curbishley's plan to rouse those dormant emotions involved a pre-match meeting at The Valley, where he asked his players if they wanted to continue playing in front of the full houses they have drawn to what is now an impressive stadium. They will continue to do so only if they stay in the FA Carling Premiership and yesterday they took a big step towards achieving that objective.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): S Hislop — S Lomas, I Pearce, N Ruddock, S Minto — T Sinclair, F Lampard, M-V Foe, M Keller — P Kitson (sub: E Berkovic, 78min), P Di Canio
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): S Ilic (sub: A Petterson, 45) — D Mills, R Rufus, C Tiler, C Powell — J Robinson (sub: M Bowen, 40), M Kinsella, J Barnes, G Stuart — A Hunt (sub: K Jones, 82), M Pringle
Referee: S Dunn.

Dire Liverpool sink to new depths at Forest



Owen: 22nd goal this season was not enough for victory

LIVERPOOL and Europe go hand in hand, a marriage not of convenience but of necessity. So frequently have they enriched the three continental competitions down the years; so many memorable matches. Only three times in the past 35 seasons have Liverpool failed to qualify for Europe.

Make that four in 36. Liverpool will not grace the Nou Camp or San Siro next season unless Uefa, the sport's European governing body, changes its mind and allows the fifth-placed club in the FA Carling Premiership to sneak in via the back door. It is the most that Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, and his pampered players can hope for.

Statistically, they are not good enough. They have long been removed from contention in the domestic cups and are destined to finish well behind Manchester United and Arsenal. No greater was their collective ineffectiveness, their paucity of ideas, illustrated than in the shabby draw against Nottingham Forest at the City ground yesterday.

It is mentally, though — perhaps even morally — where Liverpool have been dragged into the depths. Wearing the red shirt with pride now appears to be *passé*; inspiration and motivation has disappeared under a welter of inflated pay packets and egos.

Robbie Fowler, the England striker, has done more than most to bring disrepute on himself, his team-mates and all those who live and breathe Anfield. First, during the game against Chelsea in February, he questioned the sexuality of Graeme Le Saux; then, during the game against Everton on Saturday, he mimicked the actions of a drug-taker as he celebrated a goal. When a Football Association commission meets on Friday to decide what action to take on the first offence, they should perhaps consider the second, too.



by Russell Kempson

Houllier, a decent man, stands amid the mess — on the one hand defending his troops, as all good generals do; on the other, trying to do what is right, something that will bring some sanity back to an increasingly perplexing situation.

Liverpool are holding a board meeting today, during which it is likely that Fowler's latest escapade will be discussed. Fowler played lethargically and was replaced in the 79th minute. He was not alone. Apart from Redknapp in midfield, most of the Liverpool side appeared ready for the end of the season.

Forest are doomed to return to the Nationwide League first division and, had Liverpool deigned to shake a leg, would have had their fate hastened.

Redknapp enlivened a dreadful first half with a glorious 25-yard drive after Ince had tapped a free kick sideways. Carragher should have added to the tally but headed over the crossbar after McManaman, who is bound for Real Madrid and looking demob happy already, had flicked on a corner by Berger.

Forest are at least going down fighting. Freedman bundled in an equaliser from a throw by Rogers and, after Owen had restored Liverpool's lead with his 22nd goal of the season, Van Hooijdonk levelled again in the last minute from a trademark free kick, lashed in from 20 yards.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — M Louis-Jean (sub: N Shipperley, 89min), R Gough, C Edwards, T Bonalair — P van Hooijdonk, A Johnson, C Palmer, A Rogers — D Freedman (sub: B Allou, 78), M Harewood.
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — R Song, J Carragher, S Staunton, D Matteo — S McManaman (sub: K Riedle, 67), P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger — M Owen, R Fowler (sub: S Gerrard, 67).
Referee: D Gallagher

Bergkamp returns to aid Arsenal in title pursuit

By Mel Webb

ARSENAL and Blackburn Rovers may be driven by opposite ambitions as the FA Carling Premiership season approaches its *dénouement*, but the objective for each side will be similar when they meet at Highbury tonight.

Theoretically, this should be the time of year when the gulf between those contending for championships and others toiling to avoid relegation should be seen most vividly — but it ain't necessarily so.

For example, Blackburn go to North London bolstered by a record that has seen them undefeated at Highbury for the past five years. The past should have no relevance as to what might happen in the present, but footballers are superstitious folk and, after all, Blackburn need every small advantage that they can lay their hands on.

Arsenal are in the fortunate position of not usually needing anything as ephemeral as mere luck — who needs luck when you have a first team squad like theirs? Even so, they will be hoping that the gulf between them and their opponents will be widened by the return to their ranks of the talismanic Dennis Bergkamp.

He missed Arsenal's disappointing goalless draw against Southampton on Saturday but is expected to have recovered from a stomach virus sufficiently to take his place in Arsenal's starting line-up.

Arsenal's need for points is no less urgent than Blackburn's. Three points against Brian Kidd's team of high-investment strugglers will keep them in touch with Manchester United — none would almost certainly mean that they can forget such exotica as League and Cup doubles for another year.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, knows that the apparent gulf between his side and Kidd's will be narrowed when the action gets under way. "It's a very important game for us to win, but every game at home will be crucial between now and the end of the season," he said.

"We have the determination and desire to do it, but we know that Blackburn will fight hard. Manchester United, Chelsea and Leeds will all come against the same problem before the race is over."

Wenger has a few injury problems. Martin Keown had to go off with an ankle strain at The Dell and Marc Overmars has been suffering from infected blisters on his feet. Both, plus Bergkamp, were back in training yesterday, but Emanuel Petit is still suspended and Remi Garde and Stephen Hughes, possible replacements for the Frenchman, are still recovering from injuries.

If Bergkamp plays, he could find himself being marked by Lee Carsley, a recent £3.3 million signing from Derby County. The rugged midfield player has had an ankle injury, but might make his first full appearance after coming off the substitutes' bench against Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Leicester City go into their match against Aston Villa at Filbert Street tonight with Martin O'Neill, their manager, insisting that his side still has a chance of winning a place in Europe.

Leciester are thirteenth in the table, but O'Neill believes that victory against Villa will keep them firmly in the hunt for a place in the Uefa Cup. O'Neill's main injuries are centred upon Muzzy Izzet, who has a pulled hamstring, Steve Walsh, who has an ankle injury, and Gerry Taggart, who is recovering from flu.

One Villa player is assured of a warm reception from the Leicester crowd. Julian Joachim left Leicester for Villa three years ago, still lives in the town and has a half-share in a local Chinese restaurant.

Ferguson has full squad for Juventus

By Our Sports Staff

THE rapier qualities of Ryan Giggs and the more rumbustious talents of Jaap Stam will both be available to Manchester United when they face Juventus in their European Cup semi-final first leg at Old Trafford tomorrow.

The pair were declared fit by Alex Ferguson, the United manager, after they trained with the rest of the squad yesterday. Both sat out the 1-1 draw at Wimbledon on Saturday, Stam nursing an ankle injury and Giggs suffering from a hamstring complaint. Their return means that Ferguson will have a full-strength squad to choose from.

United are in excellent shape going into their biggest week of the season so far. Ferguson's treble-chasers remain four points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership and on Sunday there is the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Villa Park.

Ferguson is confident that his players will once again rise to the challenge. "What helps, of course, is that we've got a good, strong squad. We have not had a long injury list and pray to the Lord and touch wood we hope it remains that way," he said. "The spirit in the camp is great and we're all looking forward to this week."

In particular, Ferguson feels that his side have taken great heart from their quarter-final win over Internazionale: "I think this team is improving and I think beating Inter Milan did help them," he said. "That brought them on a great stride and now it's just a matter of them being able to express themselves and make sure their concentration is good."

While all is sweetness and light in the United camp, all is not well with Juventus. The Serie A side, who have appeared in the past three European Cup finals, have stumbled through to the semi-finals, winning just two of their past eight games.

They are adrift in the race for the Italian championship and although Carlo Ancelotti, the coach, has improved the fortunes of the club during his two months in charge, they lost 1-0 away to Empoli, who are at the bottom of the Serie A table, on Saturday.

Ferguson's brother, Martin, watched the game and the Manchester United boss is not reading too much into that result.

"It will be a different team altogether on Wednesday," he said. "They had five players out on Saturday and we are preparing for a hard game."

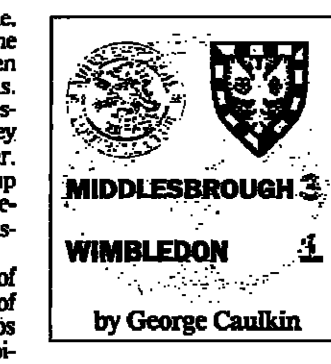
Wimbledon's weaknesses are exposed by Ricard

THEY call it the comfort zone, but Wimbledon wore the pained expression of men pricked by a thousand pins. Relative safety is Middlesbrough's preserve and yet they play with a desperate hunger. Entering the Inter-Toto Cup has met with a conflicting response; lunatic alarm and miserable apathy.

The guilty finger-prints of fallibility are everywhere, of course, for both these clubs have harboured fleeting ambitions of qualifying for European competition via a more recognised route. Middlesbrough performed as if the Uefa Cup remained a realistic opportunity; Wimbledon displayed a lifeless dread.

On the evidence of yesterday's equivalent to a friendly fixture, Middlesbrough will be better equipped to dredge the most from the tatters of so many wrecked holiday plans. In Keith O'Neill and Hamilton Ricard, a nascent attacking partnership is taking shape and now that the FA Carling Premiership table offers little to fear, a winter's weight has been lifted from their shoulders.

Gripes remain, however. Bryan Robson's reaction when the prospect of a working summer was mentioned was not so much gruff as growled. "I'm not bothered about that," the Middlesbrough manager said. "I'm only interested in us finishing as high as we can in the league." Can it be assumed the idea does not meet with his whole-hearted enthusiasm?



by George Caulkin

He was a touch more content on the subject of the game, describing the opening half as "one of our better 45 minutes", but that paid scant regard to Wimbledon's inadequacy.

"You need a mental toughness," David Kemp, the Wimbledon caretaker manager, said. "I've got no grouse with the players in terms of their effort, but we can't start performing at half past three."

Since Tottenham Hotspur twice foiled their designs on silverware two months ago, Wimbledon's season has been abandoned in the manner of rats and sinking ships. Collectively, they began the match as if already contemplating a fortnight in Benidorm. Individually, Neil Sullivan appeared to have begun his journey. For both of Ricard's goals, the positional sense of the Scotland goalkeeper was suspect.

The first, after barely 30 seconds, was to effectively decide the result in Middlesbrough's favour. A purposeful kick from Mark Schwarzer was flicked on by Andy Townsend and Ricard hooked his shot above Sullivan's prone form.

Set-pieces and long-balls: the manner of Wimbledon's collapse was ironic. Ricard's chip in the 28th minute, racing on to a forward punt by Colin Cooper, took the Colombia forward's seasonal tally to 17, while there could be little excuse for the freedom that Gianluca Festa enjoyed to stoop and head home Townsend's corner at the far post.

Carl Cort, the Wimbledon substitute, summoned a lusty volley from a cross by Ceri Hughes, but it was a token gesture and never amounted to anything approaching a comeback.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, G Pallister, G Festa — R Stockdale (sub: S Vickers, 84min), R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, A Townsend, D Gordon — H Ricard, K O'Neill (sub: N Maddison, 54)
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — N Ardley (sub: M Hughes, 83), C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — G Ainsworth (sub: A Roberts, 46), J Euell, R Earle, C Hughes — J Hartson (sub: C Cort, 66), M Gayle
Referee: P Durkin

Sullivan's hat-trick dismisses Bradford

St Helens 58
Bradford Bulls 14

BY PETER WILSON

A HAT-TRICK of tries from Anthony Sullivan and 26 points from Tommy Martyn, at stand-off half, confirmed St Helens's place at the top of the JJB Super League. Bradford Bulls, forced to make five changes as a result of their bruising win over Leeds on Thursday, were completely overrun in the second half.

"This was our third match in eight days and that was significant," Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said. "They were magnificent in the second half and we could not compete."

Things had started brightly for Bradford, who went ahead with a try by Bernard Dwyer in the fifth minute, and the early exchanges offered little hint of the points landslide that was to follow. Two goals by Martyn brought St Helens their first points, but the Bradford defence held firm until the 24th minute, when Fereti Tuilagi scored his first try for St Helens. Then two tries in a four-minute spell shortly before half-time signalled St Helens' growing domination — Sullivan's first in the 34th minute was followed by another by Scunthorpe, the St Helens captain.

Tiredness took over in the second half for Bradford as first Tony Stewart and then Martyn added tries to the mounting St Helens total. It was not until the game was well and truly lost that Neil Harmon crossed for Bradford's consolation second try.

There was no time to enjoy that before Tim Jonkers, a 17-year-old schoolboy, added his name to the St Helens list of tryscorers. Sullivan completed his hat-trick with a spectacular 70-yard solo run and then went over after a pass from Long shortly before the end.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Sullivan (3), Stewart (2), Tuilagi, Martyn, Scunthorpe, Jonkers. **Goals:** Martyn (11). **Bradford: Tries:** Dwyer, Harmon. **Goals:** Deacon (3).

ST HELENS: P Atcheson, F Tuilagi, A Stewart, F Iro, A Sullivan, T Martyn, S Long, J O'Neill, F Cunningham, P Davidson, A Perelini, S Nickle, P Sculthorpe. **Substitutes:** C Smith, T Jonkers, M Edmondson, P Wellens.

BRADFORD BULLS: L Pryce, N McAvoy, S Naylor, D Peacock, N Zish, R Paul, P Deacon, B McDermott, J Lowes, S Fielden, L Radford, B Dwyer, M Forshaw. **Substitutes:** S McNamara, N Harmon, W Jowett, H Paul.

Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON GIVEN A STERN WARNING IN ONE-SIDED DRESS-REHEARSAL FOR CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Rhinos display resilient quality

Leeds Rhinos 38
London Broncos 12

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE



Cummins scores one of the tries that gave Leeds a convincing win over London in their cup final rehearsal yesterday

THERE was an element of shadow-boxing at Headingley yesterday about the dress-rehearsal for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month. No matter that Leeds Rhinos remembered their lines and blew away their Wembley opponents, this was a disappointing affair in the JJB Super League.

As Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, observed afterwards: "Two games in five days, that's the problem. Last Thursday against Bradford was a quality game, but you can't back up the Monday after."

Nor was Murray referring solely to the lack of quality on view. Clearly angry, he said that the imposition this season of a 30-match league programme and the re-introduction of midweek fixtures means that players are more likely to suffer injuries on the field.

At least Murray can draw some consolation that it is the same for everybody. For example, it is London's misfortune to have to meet St Helens, the league leaders, on Friday, but, as Dan Stains, their coach, said: "The programme was in front of us from the start and it's up to everyone to adapt."

With both sides playing for a third time in less than ten days, intensity was an inevitable casualty and the encounter was an unreliable guide to the cup final on May 1. With six players missing, London were left to count the cost of further injuries to Salter, Retchless and Air, the scrum half replacement for Shaun Edwards, who suffered a nasty cut near his eye. Stains confirmed that Edwards had broken his thumb and doctors had advised that he would be out for between eight and ten weeks.

After they led 12-10 at half-time, the Broncos' 100 per cent record in the league and cup this season was overwhelmingly ended. They sustained 32 points without replay, as Leeds recovered from a painfully slow beginning. Some of Rhinos' tackling early on was apologetic as Millard crashed in beneath the posts and Air then ran round the back of the scrum and released Hammond, but wherever Iestyn Harris was, trouble for London was never far away. The stand-off half was the architect of both the Rhinos' tries before half-time, the first when he spun through 360 degrees and got his pass out to Lawford.

The timing of his pass to set in motion the 100th career try by Cummins on the left wing also triggered an upping in the Leeds tempo, which a desperately tired London found it impossible to handle. Harris was again the provider of tries, by Farrell and Golden, within eight minutes of the resumption. As the heavier Leeds forwards got to work, McDermott deserved a try, but was called back for a forward pass.

Stains said that while boxers got several months between bouts, days for rugby league players were not enough. Tries in the last 15 minutes were there to be scored and Leeds obliged as Rivett scampered clear from half way. Harris strolled over and Lawford added his second.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Lawford (2), Cummins, Farrell, Golden, Rivett. **Goals:** Harris (5). **London Broncos: Tries:** Millard, Hammond. Goals: Warton (2).

LEEDS RHINOS: M St Hilaire, P Sterling, M Golden, B Godden, F Cummins, I Harris, D Lawford, M Masella, L Jackson, D Fleary, A Morley, A Farrell, K Sinfield. **Substitutes:** L Rivett, B McDermott, M Glanville, J Mathiou.

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett, R Warton, G Fleming, J Timu, M Offiah, K Hammond, G Air, S Retchless, D Callaway, M Salter, A Seibold, S Millard, M Toshack. **Substitutes:** C Ryan, D Peters, A Spencer, S Hughes.

Referee: J Connolly (Wigan)

Denis Betts celebrated his return after seven months out with a knee injury by scoring his hundredth try for Wigan Warriors just 58sec into their 52-22 victory over Wakefield Trinity Wildcats at Belle Vue. Wigan led 34-0 before the JJB Super League newcomers staged a revival in the second half.

CRICKET

Hooper fails to deliver on promise yet again

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

CARL HOOPER, the great enigma of West Indies cricket, let the side down again yesterday. They were looking for something special from him to make sure that Brian Lara's stupendous efforts are rewarded with the Frank Worrell Trophy, but they were bitterly disappointed once more as he threw his wicket away in a moment of aberration.

Hooper had looked determined enough the day before, reviving memories of his match-winning 92 not out against England in Trinidad last year by making a stabilizing, unbeaten 40 to take West Indies to 197 for six, 106 runs behind Australia's first-innings total in the decisive final Test.

He had scored only seven more, however, when he paddled Stuart MacGill's googly down to fine leg, took on Glenn McGrath's arm when the fast bowler already had the ball in his hand in a desperate attempt to keep the strike, and was run out by a yard.

It had been asking a lot of Hooper to get West Indies close to the Australia total, since they had already lost Perry and Ambrose in the first four overs of the day. However, his dismissal was somehow typical of one of the most gifted batsmen in the world, whose average of 34 after 80 Tests is a travesty.

Instead, it was McGrath, second only to Lara as the dominant force in this engrossing series, who improved Australia's chances of levelling it and retaining the trophy with

Scoreboard 30

another ruthless demonstration of the class, character and sustained aggression that make him the bowler he is.

He had damaged his foot kicking an advertising hoarding in his frustration at not getting his just deserts the previous night, but the addition of injury to insult only spurred him on to greater efforts and in his second over he produced a classical inswinger of almost yorker length to pluck out Perry's off stump.

Ambrose promptly hoisted MacGill to long-on, where Ricky Ponting held a well-judged catch. Corey Collymore showed his competitive spirit with one or two defiant blows, but Hooper's error of judgment exposed Courtney Walsh to McGrath with only too predictable consequences.

He had given his side the lead of 81, which ought to be decisive on a pitch that is beginning to bounce unpredictably, but Australia did not need reminding that they had a lead of 161 in Barbados and still could not stop Lara from beating them.

They have not made more than 200 in the second innings in four of their past five Tests so there was understandable caution from Michael Slater and Greg Blewett as the old warriors, Walsh and Ambrose, geared themselves up for one last blast.

Walsh could not make a breakthrough this time, but Ambrose followed his five first-innings wickets by straightening the ball up to claim Blewett leg-before.

He also got a couple to bounce disconcertingly, but not nearly as damagingly as Jimmy Adams, who made one of his left-arm spinners spit so wickedly at Ridley Jacobs, the wicketkeeper, that it cut him above the eye and forced him to retire from the fray. Adams himself had to take over the gloves.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.cricket.org

TELEVISION:
Live on Sky Sports 2, from 3pm

Lloyd's bubble bursts again

Hull Sharks 21
Sheffield Eagles..................23

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS *déjà vu* for David Lloyd, the Hull Sharks owner, at The Boulevard yesterday. Just 16 hours after his Davis Cup side had lost to the United States, his JJB Super League team went down to the last kick of a knife-edge encounter with the Sheffield Eagles.

Hull supporters had already begun to celebrate their weakened team's first league win of the season when Karl Lovell out-flanked the Hull defence for an equalising try.

It was a difficult enough conversion without the pressure, but Mark Aston, who had hit the uprights with two of his five previous attempts, was on target to thwart a courageous effort from Hull.

Indeed, apart from the first 20 minutes — when a ragtag Hull, minus nine first-choice players, were still getting to know one another — Sheffield found the going increasingly difficult and were relieved to have established an 8-0 lead with a try from Bright Sodje and two goals from Aston.

It was a 50-metre try by Logan Campbell, converted by Steve Prescott, which finally settled Hull down and, although the full back was lax in letting Sodje steal the touch down, he atoned with a penalty and then added the points when a superb half-break by Steve Barrow gave Gary Lester a clear run-in.

Lester should have made another try for Craig Murdoch, but he failed to get past Dave Watson and although Graham Hallas powered his way through and both Prescott and Rob Roberts kicked crucial goals, the Thorman-Lovell combination won the day.

SCORERS: Hull Sharks: Tries: Campbell, Lester, Hallas. **Goals:** Prescott (4). **Dropped goal:** Roberts. **Sheffield Eagles: Tries:** Sodje (2), Lovell (2). **Goals:** Aston (3). **Dropped goal:** Aston.

HULL SHARKS: S Prescott; R Nolan, L Campbell, G Hallas, J Smith, G Lester, C Murdoch, S Craven, M Hall, A Ireland, J Leatham, M Smith, R Roberts. **Substitutes:** R Wilson, S Barrow, A Jackson, J Windley.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: D Watson, K Lovell, D Powell, K Senior, B Sodje, M Pearson, M Aston, S Molloy, J Lawless, D Laughton, D Shaw, D Turner, J Hardy. **Substitutes:** M Jackson, S Baldwin, R Wright, C Thorman.

Referee: R Connolly (Wigan)

Forster try saves Warrington

Warrington Wolves 23
Gateshead Thunder..........18

BY MARTIN RICHARDS

MARK FORSTER, the veteran Warrington Wolves wing, preserved his side's 100 per cent start to the season with the last thrust of an enthralling finale at Wilderspool. Gateshead Thunder were entertaining hopes of claiming their first significant scalp when Toa Kohe-Love, the Warrington centre, broke from his 20-metre line. Alan Hunte was in support to send Forster over in the dying seconds.

One had to feel sorry for Gateshead, who were on the receiving end of a 19-4 penalty count by Steve Nicholson, the referee. When a try for Luke Felsch on 57 minutes, improved by Ian Herron's third goal, put Gateshead 18-8 ahead, Warrington were in deep trouble and few would have put money on their chances of staging a comeback.

However, they picked up the tempo and, three minutes later, John Duffy and Kohe-Love combined to put Jason Roach over for his second try. It proved to be the turning point.

Lee Briers, the Warrington scrum half, missed the kick, but added a 63rd-minute penalty after Danny Lee, of Gateshead, was sent to the sin-bin. Briers took control and his high kick found Hunte, who scored with 13 minutes remaining to level the scores. Briers could not add the goal, but he put Warrington in front with a 35-yard drop goal. Gateshead tried everything in a furious late onslaught and had a try disallowed. It was not to be their day.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Roach (2), Wainwright, Hunte, Forster. **Goals:** Briers. **Dropped goal:** Briers. **Gateshead Thunder: Tries:** Dayfight, Maiden, Felsch. **Goals:** Herron (3).

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, A Hunte, T Kohe-Love, M Forster, J Duffy, L Briers; M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, S McCurrie, I Knott, M Wainwright. **Substitutes:** D Hanger, G Chambers, S Gilbes, D Busby.

GATESHEAD THUNDER: B Sammut, I Herron, D Maiden, C Simon, M Dayfight, W Robinson, W Peters, D Lee, K Walters, L Felsch, B Green, A Hick, S Allwood. **Substitutes:** C Wilson, T Grimaldi, S Collins, R Allwood.

Referee: S Nicholson (Whitehaven).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As I frequently point out, the play within one suit often depends on the strategy of the rest of the hand. This example is from an early round of the 1999 Gold Cup.

Dealer South Love all IMPs

West	North	East	South
♠ A 7 5	♠ K Q 10 9	♠ 8 4 2	♠ J 6 3
♥ 9 7	♥ Q J 10	♥ 5 4 2	♥ A K 8 6 3
♦ A Q 8 5 3	♦ K 10 6 4	♦ J 2	♦ 9 7
♣ K J 7	♣ 4 2	♣ Q 10 9 6 5	♣ A 8 3

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of diamonds.

South opened One No-Trump and North overbid with a direct Three No-Trumps, rather than the more normal Stayman. Not that this would have helped reach Four Hearts which is a much better contract. There are rebid problems if you open the South hand One Heart – rebidding a five-card suit is to be avoided if possible.

Now, how would you play Three No-Trumps? The normal play in diamonds would be to duck the opening lead. But here that is clearly wrong. If East gets in he will switch to clubs, and unless the clubs are 6-2 the defence are bound to get enough tricks in the minors to set the contract. The declarer, Stuart Wheeler, recognised the point, and went up with the king of diamonds at trick one. If that had lost to the ace he would have had no chance, but nor would he if he had played low. Say a small diamond draws the ace from East: East switches to clubs, and if declarer ducks twice, West switches back to diamonds if he has the ace of spades, otherwise continues clubs.

When the king of diamonds held, Wheeler played a spade and had enough tricks for his contract. He did not see the remaining East-West cards, but I have constructed them to show a typical lay-out when playing low on the opening diamond would fail.

What if playing the king enables the defence to have enough diamond tricks to beat the contract when they take the ace of spades? That is not possible. From the lead of the five declarer can tell East has one diamond higher than the five (Rule of Eleven, remember?). It must be an honour – with AQJ53 of diamonds West would have led the queen. So if the king holds the first trick, either the suit is blocked or it is 4-3.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

St Petersburg

Today I give two more of the six decisive games from the ten played in the interesting clash between two greats of chess, Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi.

White: Boris Spassky
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
St Petersburg 1999
French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Qb6
6	a3	a5
7	Bd3	Bd7
8	Bc2	h5
9	0-0	Nh6
10	Ra2	Be7
11	Be3	Nf5
12	Bxf5	exf5
13	dxc5	Bxc5
14	Bxc5	Qxc5
15	a4	Be6
16	Nd4	Nxe5
17	Nd2	Ng4
18	Re1	Qd6
19	N2f3	0-0
20	h3	Nf6
21	Nxe6	fxe6
22	Qd4	Rac8
23	Ne5	Nd7
24	Nxd7	Qxd7
25	b3	Qc6
26	Rc2	Rf6
27	Re5	Qc5
28	Qd3	Qb6
29	c4	Qa6
30	Qd2	Qd6
31	f4	Qb6+
32	Re3	dxc4
33	bxc4	Rd8
34	Qf2	Rd1+
35	Kh2	Qb1
36	Rb2	Rh1+
37	Kg3	Rg6+
38	Kh4	Qd1
39	Qe2	Qd8+
40	Kxh5	Rh6

Checkmate

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Boris Spassky
St Petersburg 1999
Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	Bd2	Nb6
6	Bf4	Bg7
7	e3	0-0
8	Nf3	c5
9	dxc5	N6d7
10	Rc1	Nc6
11	Bb5	Nxc5
12	0-0	Bf5
13	Qe2	Bd3
14	Bxd3	Qxd3
15	Rfd1	Qxe2
16	Nxe2	Rfd8
17	Ned4	Nxd4
18	exd4	Ne6
19	Be5	Bh6
20	Rc4	Rd5
21	a4	Rad8
22	Kf1	f6
23	Bg3	Kf7
24	h3	a6
25	Rb4	R8d7
26	Ke2	Nd8
27	Rc4	Nc6
28	b4	e5
29	b5	Na5
30	Rb4	e4
31	Ne1	Bf8
32	Rbb1	Rxd4
33	Rxd4	Rxd4
34	bxa6	bxa6
35	Rb6	Nc4
36	Rxa6	Rd2+
37	Kf1	Ra2
38	Rc6	Nd2+
39	Kg1	Ra1
40	f4	exf3
41	Rc2	Bb4
42	Kf2	Ne4+
43	Kxf3	Nxg3
44	Rc7+	Ke6
45	Nc2	Bd6

White resigns

Southend

A powerful tournament on the knockout format has just concluded in Southend. Details on www.chess.redbus.co.uk.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

RUGBY UNION

Rees out of grand-slam showdown

BY DAVID HANDS AND ALASDAIR REID

DAVID REES lost his bid to play in England's grand-slam game with Wales at Wembley on Sunday when he was not among the squad that assembled yesterday in Richmond to prepare for the final weekend of the Five Nations Championship. Rees, the Sale wing, trained last week but could not prove his fitness when Clive Woodward, the England coach, watched his club defeat London Irish at the weekend.

Rees joins Kyran Bracken on the sidelines: both were injured against France and while Matt Dawson will step up at scrum half, Woodward may offer another Sale player, Steve Hanley, a first cap on the wing.

Whether he does so may depend on Jeremy Guscott's fitness. Guscott will be in the squad named today but England's medical team will monitor closely the strained hamstring that has kept him out of Bath's past two games.

Wales, fresh from away victories over France and Italy, name their team today and will include Neil Jenkins, even though the Pontypridd fly half is carrying a shoulder injury that will require an operation during the summer.

Stuart Reid, the Leeds forward, is set to make his first full international appearance since 1995, after his inclusion in the Scotland squad to face France in Paris on Saturday.

Reid won his only cap to date in Scotland's 15-15 draw with Western Samoa that year. Also drafted in are George Graham and Doddie Weir, both of Newcastle Falcons.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (v France, Saturday) **Backs: G Armstrong** (Newcastle Falcons captain), **C Chalmers** (Edinburgh Reivers), **I Fairley** (Edinburgh Reivers), **J Leslie** (Sanyo), **K Logan** (Wasps), **S Longstaff** (Glasgow Caledonians), **G Metcalfe** (Glasgow Caledonians), **C Murray** (Edinburgh Reivers), **A Tait** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Townsend** (Brive). **Forwards: S Brotherstone** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Bulloch** (Glasgow Caledonians), **P Burnell** (London Scottish), **G Graham** (Newcastle Falcons), **S Grimes** (Glasgow Caledonians), **D Hilton** (Bath), **M Leslie** (Edinburgh Reivers), **S Murray** (Bedford), **A Pountney** (Northampton), **A Reed** (Wasps), **S Reid** (Leeds), **P Walton** (Newcastle Falcons), **G Weir** (Newcastle Falcons).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tour ends in defeat

■ **HOCKEY:** England's tour of Argentina came to a disappointing end on Sunday with a 2-1 defeat by the home side in the final of the quadrangular tournament in Buenos Aires (Sydney Friskin writes). Argentina A, who had served notice on England with a 5-2 win earlier in the tournament, ended an evenly fought first half with a goal by Lombi. As their confidence grew, they put England under increasing pressure and, in the fifteenth minute, Matius looped a shot over the head of Triggs for the second. England replied through Sharpe from a well-worked short corner in the 57th minute but were unable to create any more goalscoring opportunities.

■ **ICE HOCKEY: Jonathan Weaver, Manchester Storm's brightest prospect, could get the chance to step up into the National Hockey League. Weaver, 22, was watched on Saturday by Roy Mlakar, president and head of operations at Ottawa Senators. Although Storm lost their Sekonda semi-final 5-0 to Cardiff Devils, Weaver still demonstrated his potential. Kurt Kleinendorst, his coach, believes he is ready for the world's premier league, "but he will need a sympathetic coach, one open-minded about his being a Brit".**

■ **ATHLETICS:** Linford Christie, the former Olympic champion sprinter, pulled out of Australia's Stawell Gift race with a hamstring injury yesterday. Christie was due to run in the semi-finals of the Easter sprint handicap, but he suffered a back-related hamstring injury after his two races the previous day. Christie was restricted in his movement and decided, on medical advice, not to run. Rod Matthews, a local sprinter, starting off with a 9.5-metre handicap, clocked 11.91sec to win the first prize in the 120-metre race.

■ **CRICKET: Sri Lanka's selectors announced a 15-strong squad yesterday, led by skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, to defend the World Cup in England this summer. Roshan Mahanama and Hashan Tillekeratne, neither of whom had been included in the original selection of 18, have been added to the party.**

SQUAD: A Ranatunga (captain), P A de Silva, S T Jayasuriya, M S Atapattu, R S Kaluwitharana, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan, U U Chandana, G P Wickremasinghe, D P M Jayawardena, R S Kalpage, U C Hathurusinghe, E Upashantha, R S Mahanama and H P Tillekeratne.

■ **CYCLING:** Gordon McCauley, of New Zealand, extended his overnight lead on the final, 66-mile stage to win the Girvan three-day race yesterday. The victory, despite what he described as a "bad patch" during Saturday's stage, increased his points advantage in the Premier Calendar 17-Race series. Chris Walker, one of the fastest finishers in the sport, took the day's stage — his second of the tour — from Julian Ramsbottom, with Danny Axford third.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BITESHEEP
a. A dog that worries sheep
b. A bishop
c. Yellow vetch

ALACRIOUS
a. Lively
b. Wingless
c. Constipated

BABERY
a. Childishness
b. A mountain berry
c. Grotesque ornamentation

BRANKS
a. Childish tricks
b. Leggings
c. A scold's bridle

Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene




Black to play. This position is from the game Ganbold — Sharavdorj, Myanmar 1999.

The white king is in a very dangerous position, being trapped in the centre and unable to escape. How did Black finish off?

Solution on page 42

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Semi-finals, first leg
Atlético Madrid v Parma (8.30)
Marseilles v Bologna (7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v Blackburn (7.45)
Leicester v Aston Villa (7.45)

Nationwide League
Second division
Bournemouth v Macclesfield (7.45)
Luton v York (7.45)
Walsall v Wrexham (7.45)

Third division
Brighton v Cambridge Utd (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Hartlepool (7.45)

Bank of Scotland
Scottish Premier League
Dundee Utd v Hearts (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Greenock Morton

RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Tooting and Mitcham v Met Police. **Third division:** Clapton v East Thurrock, Lewes v Camberley Town.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Sixth-round replay: West Ham v Arsenal.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby v Stoke (7.0), Everton v Sunderland (7.0). **First division:** Barnsley v West Bromwich (7.0). **League Cup: Semi-final:** Stockport v Bradford (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel v Barry.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville v Portadown (3.0); Crusaders v Glentoran (3.0); Glenavon v Linfield (3.0). **First division:** Ards v Limavady; Ballyclare v Bangor; Distillery v Larne (3.0).

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Play-offs, preliminary round: Ipswich v Leicester (1.0). **Under-17:** Leicester v Everton (1.0).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Calne.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v West Auckland, Easington v Stockton.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brimsdown v Ruislip Manor; Hillingdon Borough v London Colney; Hoddesdon v Potters Bar Town; Royston v Haringey; St Margaretsbury v Beaconsfield Sycob; Waltham Abbey v Berkhamsted.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Darlaston v Smethwick Rangers; Walsall Wood v Dudley Town. **Premier division cup: Semi-finals:** Cradley Town v Wolverhampton C; Westfields v Kington Town.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham v N Spencer.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne v Hailsham; Redhill v Ringmer.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Halifax v Salford (7.30)

Northern Ford Premiership
Bramley v Doncaster (7.30)

Britain puts dog days firmly in the past



Alix Ramsay, Tennis Correspondent, on the rebirth of a once great Davis Cup power

THERE comes a day in every young dog's life when he finally learns how to bark. At the time, it comes as a great shock, but once he has got the hang of it, there is no stopping him — no milkman or paperboy is safe. Over the Easter weekend, the Great Britain Davis Cup team learnt how to bark. It started as a quiet growl on Friday, as Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski silenced the 9,400 supporters at the National Indoor Arena by losing their opening singles, developed into a deep rumble on Saturday, as they won the doubles, and moved on to a full-throated roar as the tie went to the wire on Sunday night.

Britain lost, but only with the last four points of an enthralling, emotional occasion and what Henman, Rusedski and David Lloyd, their captain, achieved over those three days is worth more than ranking points, tournament titles and even a secure berth in the Davis Cup world group. With some superb tennis, more effort than seemed possible and a dose of sheer bloody-mindedness, they proved, once and for all, that they can compete with the big boys when it matters.

The old image of the awfully nice British chap doing rather well but not quite well enough evaporated after the first day. Henman looked devastated by his loss to Jim Courier on Friday. On Sunday, Rusedski looked worse. He had also fallen in five sets to the old campaigner and could not bear the thought that he had cost Britain the tie.

There was not much more that he could have done. Against Courier, a former world No 1 who has saved his nation's pride in Davis Cup more than once, it all came down to a couple of points here and there. Unfortunately, those points went to the American.

"This is the highest level of tennis that we've been a part of at a Davis Cup tie from start to finish," Courier said generously afterwards. He knows what he is talking about. He has played with the best against the best. "It was incredibly competitive and, really, just thrilling," he said. "This is as good as it gets. England is very lucky to have that in their first tie back in the world group. This is the type of match that gets a lot of kids wanting to play tennis tomorrow morning."

That must be the hope of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which got it right over the weekend. The NIA was the perfect setting, big enough to be imposing but designed in such a way that every member of the crowd felt like they were a part of the action. It encouraged the youngsters to come in their hundreds, it provided banners and rattles and the spectators soon understood that in Davis Cup ties they are allowed to make noise.

"The thing which was nice was that you had such a diverse crowd," Rusedski said. "You had young kids there, it wasn't like your regular tennis supporter in Britain. It was a mixture of kids, people who play, people from different backgrounds. It made it nice and I think it is very important."

From the British perspective, this was the biggest tennis occasion in decades. Those who were lucky enough to be a part of it did their bit to support the team, but with BBC Television's live coverage attracting an audience of 7.8 million on Sunday evening, many more had a taste of the moment. What the LTA has to do now is seize that moment and build on it.

What Lloyd has to do is put the moment behind him and plan for the future. It took Lloyd three years to get Britain back into the world group and in a couple of days he will be able to assess his chances of keeping them there. On Thursday, Britain go into the draw for the relegation play-offs, to be held after the US Open in September.

In all, 16 countries will be vying for their place in the elite — the eight losers from the world group ties trying to stay put and the eight winners of the zonal competitions trying to move up. Britain should be seeded, but with vagaries of the procedure being a mystery to all, including Lloyd, we wait to see.

Whether the tie is at home or away depends on which country Britain is drawn against. If Britain played at home the last time that the countries met, the tie will be played away — and vice versa. If the countries have never met before, they go into a separate draw for home advantage. More importantly, the home team picks the playing surface and with such countries as Spain, Italy, Austria and Chile in the draw, that could mean a clay court, Henman and Rusedski's least favourite surface.

Still, that is for the players to deal with in September. For now, the fact remains that Lloyd's men may have lost the tie, but they have done more for British tennis in three days than anyone has managed in years.

"It has been a fantastic event," Lloyd said. "If we could have won, it would have been unbelievable, but it got a lot of people interested in tennis. It was real blood, sweat and tears. Now we have to get back up and fight again." If Henman and Rusedski can do again what they did in Birmingham, they will live to bark another day.



Henman, who began Great Britain's heroic but ultimately valiant comeback with an enthralling victory over Martin, serves against the backdrop of an enthralled capacity crowd at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

Shouting down calls to gild the Easter lily

BY ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

The Easter sporting weekend was a double triumph for traditionalism. The Boat Race, 170 years old, resisted calls for significant reforms and Cambridge excelled — and the Davis Cup got exactly what it deserved in its centennial year, an engagement of mind, body and soul between players striving might and main and a crowd that came as close to audience participation as spectator sport can allow.

Thank goodness both rowing and tennis have a resistance to those who would tamper with their inherent designs. On the banks of the Thames, the University Boat Race drew its annual 200,000 followers, admitted to the occasion as much as to the sport. What is wrong with that? The race remains a magnet of fascination, the finish still the most clear example of ecstasy and despair in the sporting calendar.

The Davis Cup pitted Great Britain against the United States, the originals, for the first time in 21 years. Inside the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, 9,400 people, as many as this resonant hall can hold, spent three days, hour after intense hour, helping Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski to lift Britain, for the first time in living memory, to within an ace of the Americans.

Those who were not in the arena can only have gleaned through the keyhole of television the intensity of the combat and the compelling link between players and a crowd of all ages and classes.

It was draining, it was thrilling and it will leave a taste of the essence of sport long after the chocolate eggs have been forgotten. For both events, we have to thank people long dead who invented the competitions and thank those today who stand in the way of reformers.

Cricket is straining to sustain appeal in this country and, frighteningly, one heard over the Bank Holiday of administrators talking of quick-fix reforms to try to grab the attention of youth. The thinking appears to be that young people are looking for instant gratification, that they might not understand the conventions that have, through the passage of time, made men and women compete until they drop within a given framework of tried and trusted rules.

It is cheap nonsense, arrogance, to assume that our generation can reinvent the sport of our fathers and it risks losing the support of those who trust their sport and its heritage. Instant gratification? Plastic cups are instant and thrown away once used.

No one who experienced it will discard the memory of Birmingham on Easter Sunday. Henman, undoubtedly Britain's star performer, was wrong when he stated that if his country lost, the weekend was wasted. No sir. It took a display of consummate excellence from Jim Courier to lay Britain's cause to rest. He beat Henman and Rusedski, outlasted them in spirit and, rather than buckle before a partisan crowd, relished the challenge.

Nor was there any disgrace in losing to Courier. Six years ago, he was the ultimate warrior on court and this weekend he was pushed close to that peak again.

"No way can you underestimate Jim's experience, his fortitude and his tenacity," Todd Martin, his compatriot, had said before the last, enthralling match. "There is nobody you would rather have playing for you than Jim Courier and that is why you have professional athletics — because in the arena, athletes can challenge themselves."

The essence of sport: athletes challenging, the audience riding that tightrope between nationalism and thoroughly legitimate involvement and all within rules invented a century ago. Behind the scenes, the International Tennis Federation, television broadcasters and sponsors meet to consider shortening matches from five sets to three, altering the scoring system as if a new, youthful generation cannot be taught to share the thrill.

The evidence of Easter 1999 belied that thirst for change; many a child stayed up beyond their bedtime and, whether they knew how to score tennis before they entered the arena or not, they mastered the rapid learning curve. Their shrill, persistent excitement — and some of us oldies, too — was locked in the engagement that allows ordinary people to share with gifted performers. A very happy Easter indeed.

GOLF

Duval casts ethereal shadow over the Masters

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

MASTERS week 1999 is already different and we have only been here five minutes. Normally, after competitors have driven up Magnolia Lane to register their arrival at Augusta National Golf Club, there is good-natured talk about any number of subjects. This time, conversations have centred on David Duval and his stunning start to the year.

Less than 24 hours earlier, Duval had won his fourth tournament of the year and his second in succession and people are wondering whether he could add the 63rd Masters, which begins on Thursday. Actually, that is not strictly true. The talk was about Duval, as if he had become some deity, an ethereal presence hovering, unseen, over the preceedings.

"Has he arrived?" people wanted to know all yesterday morning. "When will he practice?" they asked. "Where is he staying?" The answer to these questions was "yes", "probably Tuesday" and "not known". Mitch Knox, his caddie, was the first to appear and then later Duval arrived to register. Surrounded by journalists and onlookers, he said: "I am excited. It's a big week and I am looking forward to it."

This did nothing to lessen the fevered speculation about Duval, 27, whose worst finish in a strokeplay event in 1999 is a tie for eighteenth.

"He definitely has something going on up there that no one else has," Jim Furyk, the United States Ryder Cup player, said.

"He's hotter than a firecracker right now," Fuzzy Zoeller said, and then ambled over to talk to John Daly, who is making his first appearance since pulling out of the Players Championship two weeks ago with a hip injury. At least Zoeller put Duval's most recent victory into some perspective, pointing out that on the 9th hole of his last round, Duval's drive had rebounded into the middle of the fairway from a tree — "Winner's luck," Zoeller said.

Thomas Bjorn and Patrick Sjoland teed off at 10.40am in a practise round yesterday, by which time Darren Clarke had completed the homeward nine and had the humbling, but by no means unusual experience at this course, of chipping on to the 17th green and then promptly putting off it.

Shortly afterwards, Sergio Garcia, the amateur, began his first official practice round in the company of Severiano Ballesteros, his mentor and countryman, just ahead of a threeball that comprised Gary Player, Charles Coody and Bob Charles. Tony Jacklin was practising his putting at one end of the putting green while Ian Woosnam was doing likewise at the other.

Lee Westwood arrived at the club and prepared to take his first look at Augusta this year. "It is going to be hard to get past him, isn't it?" Westwood said of Duval.

"He is certainly on a roll," Mark Calcavecchia, the 1989 Open champion, said. "To win four tournaments in the Nineties is pretty good. To win four in one year before Augusta is fantastic."



WEBSITE: www.pgatour.com
TELEVISION: Coverage of the Masters starts on Thursday on BBC1 at 10.30pm

Beware the hype when casting around for tackle

Brian Clarke says newcomers to the sport of flyfishing should shop sensibly and seek out expert advice

Citroën once produced a memorable series of advertisements for its get-in-with-a-tin-opener 2CV. They purported to equate that idiosyncratic jalopy with a range of top-flight cars. "How many wheels does a Rolls-Royce have? Four. How many wheels does a 2CV have? Four!" ... "Porsche put their parcel-shelves on the outside. With the 2CV, you get the parcel shelf on the inside!" Something like that. The wry message each time was — why pay the difference?

The same question may be asked of any flyfisher looking for new equipment just now. A new trout season is upon us and the air is filled with the song of tackle-dealers pushing wheelbarrows to the bank.

Of course, we all got the Citroën joke. The difference between a car at the bottom of a range and the top is usually obvious in looks and glaring in performance. The same is not true for the flyfisher. Rods, reels and the rest are designed to help an angler put his fly where he wants it and to handle effectively any fish hooked as a result. Many a low-priced outfit will do that as well as top-priced kit and the actual rods may appear to be indistinguishable.

'Fishing skills are what matter'

So why should anyone taking up fly-fishing this spring pay the difference in cost between the two? I can think of no good reason.

Astronomical prices are being asked today for tackle that incorporates minor and in some cases undetectable alleged advances. Many genuinely excellent American products sold here can be bought at a fraction of the price in the United States. You could take a break in America to buy them and have the cost of the trip covered by the savings. In the meantime, rods that would perform brilliantly, though maybe without the cachet of a few well-hyped names, go begging.

A fly fisherman on small streams will want a rod in the 7ft to 8ft range carrying maybe a four-weight line. An angler tackling larger rivers and many still waters will want something between 8ft and 9ft 6ins, carrying five-weight to seven-weight lines. For some lake fishing and angling for sea trout, rods of up to 10ft or a little more, carrying lines up to eight-weight or so, will be useful.

Large numbers of rods for all these purposes are priced at £400, £500 and more, while serviceable outfits — rods, reels, lines, leaders and flies together — can be bought for two-thirds less. The rods I use for virtually all my own stream and river fishing cost £120 apiece — yet have had users of £500 rods gasp at the silken ease with which each puts out a line. My favourite wet-fly rod for lakes cost me £25 second-hand and its original owner £70 new. When I wanted a salmon two-hander, I sought advice from a brilliant salmon angler. What did he recommend out of all the rods available, most of which he had tried? Why, the same rod he uses himself — a Japanese product costing £300 new, which I picked up second-hand for £200. It performs like a dream.

The reality is that few rods and anglers are born for one another. Often enough, we buy a rod that feels good in the hand. If, having bought it, the rod shows a less-than-fatal quirk, we tend to fish on and adjust to it. More often than not, the rod we fish with ends up becoming the rod we know and learn to love.

It is the same with fly reels. Plenty of reels now come in at between £250 and £400 — a few at even more. I have never spent more than £80 and the two of that price I do own both incorporate superb disc drags. Many expert flyfishers are wedded to reels that cost between £30 and £40 apiece.

On the high-priced options, this or that gizmo justifies a little extra cost and hype delivers the rest. Statements like "the days are long gone when a reel was regarded largely as a place to store line" are now heard repeatedly — and are wrong. The prime function of a reel will always be to store and, of course, dispense and recover line. The essential qualities — lightness, reliability and an exposed rim — cost very little in themselves.

In truth, the rod has not yet been priced that will turn an indifferent caster into a good caster and no outfit has been assembled that will make up for a lack of fishing skills. Unless the angler knows the value of a cautious approach to the water, can read the currents, knows where a fish is likely to lie and can present the right fly in such a way that it comes to his quarry's attention naturally, every penny spent on any rod will be money down the drain.

'No rod will make a good caster'

None of this is to say that much expensive tackle is not superb or that good tackle will not give a good fisherman an edge: simply that expensive tackle will not necessarily be good tackle and that quite superb gear can be had at a very modest price. Telling the difference in the shop or in the catalogue is, of course, the problem.

For the angler who can be persuaded that he needs the most expensive in anything and can afford it, the issue is neither here nor there. For many more — and especially gullible newcomers confronted by honey-tongued salesmen — the issue is often central. My advice to anyone starting up is to seek independent, experienced advice if he or she can and, if they cannot, then to buy modestly and spend anything extra on tuition.

☐ *Brian Clarke's next column will appear on Monday, May 3*

A time of trials and tribulations

JULIAN MUSCAT

On the level

Racing is hardly short of bonfires to spark the imagination, yet few can match the one ignited by Criquette Head as she revelled in Juvenia's Prix Marcel Boussac triumph in October. The French trainer had just seen Juvenia repel all-comers in a principal 1,000 Guineas pointer before she announced to all and sundry: "Ah, but I have one better at home."

This is often an attention-seeking ploy employed after a two-year-old has just skated up to send bookmakers scurrying for their mobile phones. More often than not, the anonymous "one at home" subsequently fails to cope with the stable's lurcher. However, Madame Head's reputation is not to be trifled with. No sooner had she identified the filly in question than Moiava was immediately installed among the favourites for the 1,000 Guineas. The trainer's reputation — and that of her filly — are firmly on the line when Moiava reappears at Maisons-Laffitte on Friday.

At this early stage Moiava merits plenty of attention. Almost as impeccably connected as her trainer, she's a daughter of Bering and the Nureyev mare Mona Stella, already dam of the talented Special Quest. Remarkably, some perceive her sire, Bering, to be a weak link, even though he spent his early stallion years in Kentucky — and thus under-represented on the European turf that plainly suits his progeny. There will be plenty of stallions represented in the classics who cannot boast a pair of Guineas winners in Matiara and the outstanding Pennekamp, as Bering can.

Moiava is unbeaten in two starts, latterly when fending off Restless War, himself an intended runner in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket. If her class is evident, a detail as yet unresolved for punters is her tractability. She made all to account for Restless War and the intention to run a pacemaker on Friday suggests that Moiava can be headstrong. This is certainly not a trait favourable to her prospects at Newmarket, where free-running 1,000 Guineas winners are rare.

At least Moiava faces a meaningful test, with Blue Cloud — like Restless War, trained by André Fabre — among her opponents. A half-sister to the champion miler, Bigstone, Blue Cloud finished just inches behind Juvenia in the Marcel Boussac, and thus offers the perfect yardstick by which to measure Madame Head's assessment of Moiava. Blue Cloud is also bound for the fillies' classic at Newmarket, for which she has been well supported in recent days. Both fillies are reported to have thrived over the winter.

Those searching for clues to the outcome of the 1,000 Guineas should pay close attention to the eve-of-Grand National trial. The French test will be the most competitive of them all, unless, of course, you happen to have access to the Godolphin gallops in Dubai this weekend. Of the ten fillies quoted at 16-1 or less, no less than five are resident at Al Quoz — among them Calando, as reliable a litmus to juvenile form as there was last season.

For all their mystique, Godolphin's private trials rapidly become public knowledge as bookmakers take evasive action from the weight of money guided by their outcome. With the likes of Saytarra, Etizaaz, Kareymah and Kilting to call on, it will be surprising if Calando emerges as Godolphin's front-line candidate.

One filly who appealed as a live 1,000 Guineas candidate after her victory on Saturday is Claxon — who was promptly ruled out of the equation by her trainer, John Dunlop. Claxon bounded clean away from Alabaq, her stablemate who finished fourth in the group one Fillies' Mile in September. Dunlop prefers eschewing Newmarket in favour of an Oaks bid which, through less-measured thought, was the campaign embarked on by her dam, Bulaxie.

Withdrawn from the 1,000 Guineas through injury, Bulaxie started favourite for the 1994 Oaks after winning decisively at Goodwood. Bulaxie's problem was her lack of tractability. A nervy filly, she would not settle sufficiently to assess whether she stayed 12 furlongs; hence Dunlop's post-race dilemma when dealing with Claxon's stamina.

What was not broached in respect of Claxon was the fact that Dunlop trained Etizaaz until she was poached by Godolphin in October. Perhaps Dunlop's reluctance to go to Newmarket with an apparently legitimate contender is based on what he saw of the two fillies on the gallops last year. The guessing game goes on.

□ *Julian Muscat writes on Flat racing every Tuesday*

ED BYRNE



Calando is among the Godolphin team being prepared for the 1,000 Guineas

Injured Bradley likely to miss Grand National

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE vanquishing of British hopes was painful and absolute at Fairyhouse yesterday. The finish of the Jameson Irish National was fought out exclusively by home-trained horses and, while trainer Michael O'Brien celebrated his third win in the event with Glebe Lad, jockey Graham Bradley was taken to hospital after dislocating his shoulder.

For Bradley, whose mount Rightsaidfred fell three out, the timing could not be worse. In the Martell Grand National on Saturday, he is scheduled to ride Suny Bay, runner-up for the past two years, but he is not optimistic about his chances of being fit in time.

"I am feeling very sore," Bradley said last night. "I will be staying over in Ireland tonight as I am much too uncomfortable to travel at the moment. Hopefully I will see a specialist first thing tomorrow morning and we'll take it from there but things are not looking good."

Life has dealt some dreadful cards to O'Brien, who manages his operation on the Curragh from a wheelchair, but he long ago demonstrated his shrewdness and he had been openly optimistic about Glebe Lad's prospects. Even O'Brien's confidence must have dissipated as Feathered Leader cruised past his horse to jump the last in front but Glebe Lad rallied stoically under Tommy Rudd to take the race by three lengths.

Kempton's Flat card, which featured doubles for jockeys Kieren Fallon and Olivier Peslier, was overshadowed by serious injury to John Reid, 43, who broke his right leg after a fall from Dower House during the Magnolia Stakes when a stirrup snapped.

Meanwhile, Reid's intended mount, Monsajem, was third in the principal race, the Coral Rosebery Stakes, won by Jimmy Fortune aboard Carry The Flag for trainer Paul Cole.

Martin Pipe made minor inroads into a rare deficit in the National Hunt trainers' championship. His four winners included Potentate, who was taking the Welsh Champion Hurdle for the third successive year, but Paul Nicholls, the leader, replied with three.

In the week when Jenny Pitman sends out her final Grand National runner before retirement, there was an appropriate celebration at Wincanton. Ben de Haan, who rode Pitman's first National winner, Corbiere, in 1983, had gone 325 days without training a winner but yesterday he saddled two.

BIG-RACE DETAILS

JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL

1, **GLEBE LAD** (T P Rudd, 8-1 jt-fav), 2, **Feathered Leader** (C O'Dwyer, 12-1), 3, **Manus The Man** (J F Titley, 8-1 jt-fav), 4, **Risk Of Thunder** (D J Casey, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 8 jt-favs Celtic Giant (pu), The Quads (6th), Papillon, 9 Bob Treacy (pu), 10 Roundwood (f), 14 Rightsaidfred (f), 16 Full Of Oats, 20 Druid's Brook, 25 Rocketts Castle (pu), Tarthooth (pu), 40 Ultra Flutter (pu), 50 Pauls Run, 66 Oneofourown (5th) The Real Article (pu). 18 ran. NR: Ballymacrevan, Time For A Run. 3l, 3l, 3l, dist, 4l. M J O'Brien at Naas. Tote: £5.80; £1.70, £2.80, £2.40, £6.50. DF: £53.90. CSF: £84.25. Tricast: £730.44. Trio: £143.60.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S 15 BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good to firm

2.00 (7f) 1, **Quite Incredible** (Pat Eddery, 8-1); 2, Desert Warrior (20-1); 3, Oriental (7-2 jt-fav). Luzern 7-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. NR: Sardar. 4l, hd. E Dunlop. Tote: £9.00; £2.40, £6.00, £1.50. DF: £165.40. CSF: £108.89.

2.35 (6f) 1, **Hill Magic** (N Pollard, 14-1); 2, Brave Edge (7-1); 3, To The Roof (9-4 fav). 9 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. D Elsworth. Tote: £15.50; £2.50, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £38.30. CSF: £97.26.

3.05 (1m 2f) 1, **Generous Rosi** (K Fallon, 10-11 fav); 2, Shaya (20-1); 3, Dynamism (16-1). 8 ran. 3½l, ¾l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £3.60, £2.20. DF: £18.80. CSF: £22.15.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, **Carry The Flag** (J Fortune, 14-1); 2, Rokeby Bowl (20-1); 3, Monsajem (15-2); 4, Captain's Log (14-1). Supreme Sound 11-2 fav. 20 ran. Nk, ¾l. P Cole. Tote: £14.00; £3.10, £4.50, £3.00, £4.30. DF: £90.90. CSF: £256.33. Tricast: £2,080.76.

4.10 (6f) 1, **Passion For Life** (O Peslier, 13-2 fav); 2, Riffi (14-1); 3, Easter Ogil (7-1); 4, Madmun (33-1). 23 ran. Nk, ¾l. J Akehurst. Tote: £7.90; £2.30, £3.50, £2.10, £8.70. DF: £41.10. CSF: £73.99. Tricast: £418.82.

4.45 (1m 3f 30yd) 1, **Frippet** (O Peslier, 20-1); 2, Kondoly (11-4 fav); 3, Through The Rye (7-2). 13 ran. 1l, ¾l. S Dow. Tote: £19.20; £3.10, £2.10, £1.50. DF: £47.20. CSF: £68.73.

5.20 (7f) 1, **Surprise Encounter** (K Fallon, 4-1); 2, Border Prince (15-2); 3, Rajwhan (13-2). Dano Friendly 5-4 fav. 12 ran. ¾l, 2¼l. E Dunlop. Tote: £5.00; £2.70, £3.20, £3.10. DF: £22.10. CSF: £34.46.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £37,873.03 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

Placepot: £54.90. Quadpot: £26.60.

Newcastle

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.15 (5f) 1, **Master Fay** (T Quinn, 4-1); 2, Forest Queen (12-1); 3, Best Music Metrolm (33-1). Garth Pool (4th) 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 8l, hd. M Channon. Tote: £4.30; £1.80, £1.50, £3.40. DF: £17.10. CSF: £44.78.

2.50 (5f) 1, **Silk Cottage** (N Kennedy, 7-1); 2, Sweet Magic (25-1); 3, Sealed By Fate (33-1). Mungo Park (4th) 7-2 fav. 14 ran. Hd, ¾l. R Bastiman. Tote: £8.80; £2.10, £6.40, £11.70. DF: £65.50. CSF: £165.65. Tricast: £2,937.71.

3.20 (7f) 1, **Tiler** (D Holland, 7-1); 2, Redoubtable (8-1); 3, Present Chance (20-1); 4, Daawe (20-1). Persian Fayre 6-1 fav. 17 ran. 1¾l, 4l. M Johnston. Tote: £5.40; £1.80, £1.70, £5.40, £5.70. DF: £21.20. CSF: £52.64. Tricast: £1,038.86.

3.50 (1m) 1, **Royal Rebel** (J Carroll, 6-4 fav); 2, Raaqi (13-8); 3, Catmona (11-4). 6 ran. Hd, 1¾l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.60. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.95.

4.25 (1m 4f 93yd) 1, **Doonaree** (D Holland, 7-2); 2, Fnan (10-11 fav); 3, Munif (11-2). 9 ran. 4l, 14l. M Johnston. Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £29.00. CSF: £5.69.

5.00 (1m) 1, **Celestial Welcome** (A Culhane, 13-2); 2, Jibereen (3-1 fav); 3, Bunnies Own (33-1); 4, Amron (20-1). 18 ran. 1¾l, ½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £8.50; £1.90, £1.60, £5.80, £4.60. DF: £19.10. CSF: £23.92. Tricast: £625.85.

Placepot: £244.10. Quadpot: £11.60.

Nottingham

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.10 (5f 13yd) 1, **Burn Park** (G Hind, 11-2); 2, Paradise Yangshuo (6-1); 3, French Fancy (8-1). Baytown Melody (4th) 3-1 fav. 9 ran. ¾l, hd. B Millman. Tote: £5.70; £1.90, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £14.80. CSF: £37.36.

2.40 (5f 13yd) 1, **Cote Soleil** (S Drowne, 5-2); 2, Cosmena (12-1); 3, True Obsession (2-1 fav). 10 ran. ½l, nk. M Channon. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £3.90, £1.80. DF: £17.10. CSF: £36.78.

3.10 (5f 13yd) 1, **Tayif** (G Carter, 4-5 fav); 2, Paradise Lane (33-1); 3, Mac's Express (12-1). 12 ran. ½l, nk. J Payne. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £6.30, £4.30. DF: £52.60. CSF: £52.26.

3.45 (6f 15yd) 1, **Risky Valentine** (G Hind, 10-1); 2, Grand View (16-1); 3, Night Life (5-1); 4, Bundy (5-1). Moocha Cha Man 9-4 fav. 20 ran. 1¾l, 3l. J Spearing. Tote: £10.30; £1.80, £5.20, £2.30, £1.80. DF: £119.50. CSF: £150.72. Tricast: £878.30.

4.20 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, **Pekan Heights** (W Ryan, 4-1); 2, Beryl (2-1 fav); 3, My Tess (14-1). 9 ran. 3l, 1¾l. E Dunlop. Tote: £7.40; £2.40, £1.60, £2.80. DF: £7.60. CSF: £12.29. Tricast: £98.00.

4.55 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, **He's Got Wings** (G Carter, 20-1); 2, Marie Frame (8-1); 3, Shepherds Rest (13-2); 4, Hill Farm Blues (10-1). Nikita's Star 5-2 fav. 18 ran. 1½l, hd. M Pett. Tote: £32.40; £4.40, £2.20, £1.50, £3.50. DF: £159.20. CSF: £175.21. Tricast: £1,105.12.

5.25 (1m 54yd) 1, **Fallachan** (P Robinson, evens fav); 2, It's Our Secret (16-1); 3, Unchain My Heart (11-1); 4, Leave It To Me (10-1). 17 ran. NR: Lucy Marella. 3l, 3l. M Jarvis. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £4.80, £2.90, £1.30. DF: £19.00. CSF: £22.82. Tricast: £151.81.

Placepot: £170.60. Quadpot: £26.70.

Warwick

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.00 (5f) 1, **Cotton House** (A Mackay, 5-4 fav); 2, Kilbrannan Sound (8-1); 3, Sontime (25-1). 10 ran. 2½l, 3l. M Channon. Tote: £2.10; £2.10, £2.10, £8.20. DF: £12.40. CSF: £12.97.

2.30 (5f) 1, **Lincoln Dancer** (N Day, 6-1); 2, Barringer (4-1); 3, Bluegrass Mountain (11-8 fav). 8 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. G Lewis. Tote: £7.50; £2.50, £1.90, £1.10. DF: £16.70. CSF: £30.23.

3.00 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, **Harp Player** (M Fenton, 7-1); 2, Azhaam (5-2); 3, Hatmi Khound (40-1). Port Meadow (5th) 2-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Gold Honor. ¾l, ½l. M Bell. Tote: £11.50; £2.90, £1.80, £6.90. DF: £46.80. CSF: £23.66. Tricast: £635.05.

3.35 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, **Swift** (Dean McKeown, 7-4 fav); 2, Classic Colours (25-1); 3, Master Caster (12-1); 4, Aspirant Dancer (12-1). 19 ran. 3½l, 2l. M Polglase. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £5.10, £2.90, £3.00. DF: £52.30. CSF: £60.57. Tricast: £454.33.

4.15 (1m 4f 115yd) 1, **Luz Bay** (T Sprake, 11-4); 2, Turtle Valley (9-2); 3, Coral Reef (12-1). Mancala 6-4 fav. 8 ran. 2l, 2l. R Charlton. Tote: £4.70; £2.10, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £8.60. CSF: £15.48.

4.50 (7f) 1, **Warningford** (O Urbina, 11-2); 2, Granny's Pet (7-1); 3, Late Night Out (12-1). Jo Mell (5th) 6-4 fav. 7 ran. Nk, 2½l. J Fanshawe. Tote: £9.70; £3.20, £2.70. DF: £21.00. CSF: £40.90.

5.20 (5f) 1, **Sotonian** (J D Smith, 100-30 fav); 2, Press Ahead (25-1); 3, Polar Mist (8-1); 4, Faute de Mieux (16-1). 18 ran. ½l, hd. P Felgate. Tote: £4.90; £2.10, £4.50, £2.50, £6.00. DF: £109.10. CSF: £27.53. Tricast: £578.09. Polar Mist finished second but after a stewards' inquiry ws placed third.

Placepot: £54.00. Quadpot: £209.30.

Carlisle

Going: good

2.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Acicro** (Mr J P McNamara, 4-6 fav); 2, Choice Cut (8-1); 3, Northern General (3-1). 18 ran. 4l, dist. F Murphy. Tote: £1.80; £1.60, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £7.80. CSF: £7.36.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Fan d'Estruval** (Richard Guest, 14-1); 2, Dragons Bay (2-1 fav); 3, Turkish Tower (14-1); 4, Keep Clear (10-1). 18 ran. 3l, 1l. Martin Todhunter. Tote: £14.60; £3.00, £1.20, £4.70, £12.20. DF: £13.70. CSF: £45.07. Tricast: £422.85.

3.15 (3m 1f hdle) 1, **Salvage** (R McGrath, 6-1); 2, Imperno (9-1); 3, Lobbingalong (12-1). Fox's Libel 4-1 jt-fav. 20 ran. 2l, 2½l. W Haigh. Tote: £8.80; £3.20, £3.10, £4.60. DF: £89.80. CSF: £62.81.

3.45 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Gale Force** (B Grattan, 9-2); 2, Celtic Duke (5-1); 3, Minella Gold (12-1). The Snow Burn (6th) 4-1 fav. 14 ran. 2l, 1¾l. P Beaumont. Tote: £5.90; £2.20, £2.10, £3.10. DF: £11.40. CSF: £25.66. Tricast: £243.98.

4.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Executive Design** (Mr A Dempsey, 9-4 fav); 2, Valedictory (7-1); 3, Onel Lad (9-2). 10 ran. 2½l, 13l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £5.20, £2.10. DF: £13.30. CSF: £20.51. Tricast: £68.08.

4.45 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Keeper's Call** (Mr C Mulhall, 9-2); 2, Fioruceva (4-1); 3, Major Tom (7-2). 12 ran. 1¾l, 13l. R Makin. Tote: £7.10; £2.60, £1.70, £1.40. DF: £15.80. CSF: £23.97.

5.15 (2m 1f flat) 1, **Denarius** (Richard Guest, 5-1); 2, General Louis (5-2 fav); 3, Bannerman (5-1). 18 ran. NR: Joyful Again, Nousevn. 3l, 2l. W Haigh. Tote: £4.90; £2.50, £1.90, £2.60. DF: £9.40. CSF: £19.73.

Placepot: £76.20. Quadpot: £163.50.

Chepstow

Going: soft

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Jolliver** (A P McCoy, 5-2 fav); 2, Rusty Reel (5-1); 3, Infamous (7-1). 12 ran. 2½l, 8l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.20; £1.70, £2.50, £1.40. DF: £6.40. CSF: £13.59.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Norski Lad** (J Tizzard, 4-5 fav); 2, Tarn Ton (4-1); 3, Ballet High (11-2). 11 ran. 6l, 3½l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.77.

3.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **In The Blood** (C Maude, 5-4 fav); 2, Dantes Cavalier (6-1); 3, Jathib (7-2). 6 ran. Dist, dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £2.50. DF: £4.80. CSF: £9.24.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Potentate** (A P McCoy, 11-4); 2, Tiutchev (9-4 fav); 3, City Hall (5-2). 4 ran. 4l, 1l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.90. DF: £2.60. CSF: £8.53.

4.00 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Moorland Highflyer** (Mr D O'Meara, 9-1); 2, Flapjack Lad (8-1); 3, Bally Lira (14-1). Red Lighter 7-2 fav. 10 ran. NR: High Mood, Monicasman, Sophie May. 8l, 1¾l. A Hobbs. Tote: £15.90; £2.80, £1.80, £3.60. DF: £34.90. CSF: £69.80. Tricast: £908.50.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Rash Remark** (A P McCoy, 4-6 fav); 2, Count Campioni (13-8); 3, Ballynabragget (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Russell Road, Strong Magic. 1¾l, 13l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.91.

5.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Quistaquay** (J Tizzard, 6-1); 2, Handy Lass (5-2 fav); 3, Sunrise Special (6-1). 12 ran. 6l, 3l. J Mullins. Tote: £7.70; £2.40, £1.90, £3.40. DF: £7.90. CSF: £22.79. Tricast: £95.09.

Placepot: £41.10. Quadpot: £21.80.

Fakenham

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Marchant Ming** (N Bentley, 25-1); 2, Freckles (8-1); 3, Emerald Venture (33-1). 13 ran. 7l, 1¾l. H Alexander. Tote: £30.40; £4.70, £2.60, £6.30. DF: £70.70. CSF: £188.97. Tricast: £5,924.12.

3.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, **No Quitting** (Mr W Wales, 5-1); 2, Verde Luna (5-4 fav); 3, Chester Ben (7-2). 8 ran. Hd, 11l. M Kemp. Tote: £4.90; £1.30, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £4.30. CSF: £11.87.

3.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Kingsdown Trix** (Mr S Joynes, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Tangshan (11-2); 3, Cambo (16-1). El Don (f) 2-1 jt-fav. 7 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. R Smith. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £2.80. DF: £6.60. CSF: £13.11.

4.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, **Cracking Idea** (Mr P McAllister, 9-4); 2, Zam Bee (8-1); 3, Ballyallia Castle (3-1). Jo Jo Boy (fell) evens fav. 5 ran. 6l, 2l. Mrs P Brightwell. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £2.00. DF: £14.20. CSF: £17.36.

4.50 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, **Pearl's Choice** (S Curran, 5-1); 2, Grange Court (10-3); 3, Dandie Imp (6-1). 9 ran. NR: Head For Heaven. 1¾l, 6l. J McConnochie. Tote: £6.40; £1.70, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £10.00. CSF: £24.02. Tricast: £101.27.

5.25 (2m hdle) 1, **Foxes Tail** (P Holley, 6-1); 2, Polo Venture (6-4 fav); 3, Supremism (8-1). 11 ran. 3½l, 5l. R Hodges. Tote: £5.70; £1.50, £1.20, £2.90. DF: £8.60. CSF: £17.04. Tricast: £77.79.

Placepot: £341.50. Quadpot: £7.20.

Hereford

Going: good to firm

2.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **New Bird** (R Thornton, 2-7 fav); 2, Tinged With Gold (16-1); 3, My Lost Love (33-1). 6 ran. Dist, 10l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.40; £1.30, £2.40. DF: £2.90. CSF: £6.51.

3.00 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Daytime Dawn** (Mr S Morris, 20-1); 2, Boxing Match (8-1); 3, Bel Lane (7-1). Nodform Wonder (5th) 11-10 fav. 16 ran. NR: Strong Trace. Nk, 14l. R Wale. Tote: £39.00; £7.10, £2.70, £1.30. DF: £215.90. CSF: £156.08.

3.35 (3m 2f hdle) 1, **Lucky Ross** (S Wynne, 7-2); 2, Larkus Aurelius (25-1); 3, Daddy Dancer (16-1). Supreme Day (5th) 8-11 fav. 12 ran. 10l, 1¾l. H Daly. Tote: £4.20; £1.40, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £41.90. CSF: £84.02.

4.10 (2m ch) 1, **Eskleybrook** (T Jenks, 6-1); 2, Northern Saddler (9-4 fav); 3, Kapco (6-1). 7 ran. 10l, 20l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £7.70; £2.70, £2.50. DF: £7.30. CSF: £19.57.

4.45 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Royal Tommy** (J A McCarthy, 8-11 fav); 2, The Honest Poacher (6-1); 3, Pamalyn (6-1). 6 ran. 14l, 30l. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £2.50. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.89.

5.20 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Other Club** (R Thornton, 12-1); 2, Flahive's First (14-1); 3, Berkeley Frontier (3-1). Citizen Kane (6th) 5-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Bad Bertrich, Forest Mill. ½l, 1½l. J Portman. Tote: £11.50; £2.30, £2.20, £2.70. DF: £27.10. CSF: £148.81. Tricast: £589.81.

Placepot: £253.10. Quadpot: £105.10.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Panooras Lord** (E Callaghan, 6-1); 2, Chilly Lad (25-1); 3, Forestry (8-1). Capsoil (4th) 7-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Tie Break. 2½l, 1¾l. J Wainwright. Tote: £6.40; £1.90, £3.20, £2.30. DF: £719.90. CSF: £110.80. Tricast: £1,084.85.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Winsford Hill** (J Goldstein, 6-4 fav); 2, Go Go Henry (13-2); 3, Charlosmedarlin (50-1). 6 ran. NR: Eau Benite. 10l, 1½l. Ian Williams. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £5.20. CSF: £10.66.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Ardlinnan** (A Thornton, 13-8 fav); 2, Quite Lively (6-1); 3, Pertemps Mission (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Baran Itsu. 5l, nk. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.90; £1.60, £2.10, £2.40. DF: £8.50. CSF: £12.51.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, **Cedar Square** (Mr C Bonner, 9-1); 2, Swing Quartet (4-1); 3, Hi Hedley (16-1). Seabrook Lad (5th) 5-2 fav. 10 ran. 12l, 7l. V Dartnall. Tote: £12.40; £2.60, £1.50, £2.80. DF: £24.70. CSF: £45.16. Tricast: £539.73.

4.05 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Claire's Dancer** (M Richards, 6-1); 2, Prairie Minstrel (12-1); 3, Two To Tango (4-1). Bessie Browne (fell) 5-2 fav. 10 ran. Nk, 5l. Andrew Turnell. Tote: £9.20; £2.10, £3.40, £1.10. DF: £34.90. CSF: £69.87. Tricast: £298.66.

4.35 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Tree Creeper** (J Goldstein, 4-1); 2, Come On Penny (5-1). Tom Silk (fell) 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 3l, 22l. Andrew Turnell. Tote: £5.40; £2.00, £2.50. DF: £7.70. CSF: £22.69.

5.05 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **De Chelly** (Mr V Coogan, 16-1); 2, Toreo (6-1); 3, Wunjo (11-2). Lady Busted 9-4 fav. 15 ran. NR: Chasing Baileys, General Custer, Mister Graham, Single Impression. ¾l, 3l. P Webber. Tote: £57.20; £8.30, £4.20, £2.30. DF: £595.80. CSF: £118.89.

Placepot: £186.30. Quadpot: £61.20.

Market Rasen

Going: good

2.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Unitus** (W Worthington, 20-1); 2, Legend of Love (evens fav); 3, Our Man Flin (9-2). 9 ran. Sh hd, 10l. M Chapman. Tote: £18.40; £3.20, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £7.50. CSF: £37.52.

2.45 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Rodders** (H Oliver, 12-1); 2, Jills Joy (14-1); 3, Pomic (4-5 fav). 9 ran. 2½l, 2½l. J Glover. Tote: £10.50; £2.60, £2.50, £1.80. DF: £67.20. CSF: £139.17.

3.20 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Shahrani** (C Rafter, 12-1); 2, Lucky Master (7-1); 3, Alzocmo (5-1). 9 ran. ½l, sh hd. M Chapman. Tote: £11.80; £2.00, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £47.90. CSF: £87.43. Tricast: £436.39.

3.55 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Avanti Express** (Sophie Mitchell, 6-1); 2, Miss Pennyhill (10-1); 3, Cool Spot (5-1). Oscail An Doras (4th) 2-1 fav. 7 ran. ½l, 6l. C Egerton. Tote: £7.20; £3.30, £4.70. DF: £106.20. CSF: £54.52.

4.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Coolaw** (A Maguire, 5-2); 2, Strong Spray (6-1); 3, Hot 'n Saucy (7-4 fav). 11 ran. NR: Shardante, Star Mystery. 1l, 1½l. F Murphy. Tote: £3.50; £1.30, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £8.30. CSF: £16.04.

5.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Wren Warbler** (A S Smith, 15-8 fav); 2, Willie Wannabe (20-1); 3, Falcon's Flame (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Rubon Prince. 2l, 4l. Mrs P Robeson. Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £4.10, £3.90. DF: £74.60. CSF: £33.19. Tricast: £367.08.

5.30 (1m 5f 110yd flat) 1, **Tohunga** (N Horrocks, 7-2); 2, Obelisk (5-2 fav); 3, Crack Shot (13-2). 13 ran. NR: Junst. 1½l, 3l. M Hammond. Tote: £9.00; £2.00, £1.70, £2.50. DF: £13.10. CSF: £14.31.

Placepot: £127.50. Quadpot: £30.20.

Plumpton

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Chippewa** (R Greene, 9-2); 2, Fallah (20-1); 3, Hank (13-8 fav). 12 ran. NR: Ghadames. 6l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £5.50; £2.00, £4.40, £1.50. DF: £28.00. CSF: £82.88.

3.00 (2m 2f ch) 1, **Machalini** (M Batchelor, 2-1); 2, Merry Shot (10-1); 3, Irish Frolic (7-4 fav). 9 ran. NR: Welsh Harvest. 10l, 8l. T George. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £14.60. CSF: £20.55.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Sorbiere** (S Fox, 13-2); 2, Bigwig (9-2); 3, Amaze (11-4 fav). 11 ran. 3½l, 4l. D Grissell. Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £10.90. CSF: £36.18. Tricast: £94.88.

4.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Baroncelli** (M Batchelor, 5-4 fav); 2, Caras Rose (4-1); 3, Esperanza IV (10-1). 8 ran. 3½l, 12l. M Wilkinson. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.04. Tricast: £33.09.

4.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Leitrim Cottage** (C Murray, 8-1); 2, Whippers Delight (5-1); 3, Mullintor (7-1). Lyphard's Fable (5th) 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 15l, 6l. T McGovern. Tote: £20.70; £4.10, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £38.40. CSF: £46.30. Tricast: £272.86.

5.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Stopwatch** (T Peoples, 8-1); 2, Dancing Dervish (25-1); 3, Brookside (6-1). Laflah (4th) 11-10 fav. 6 ran. 10l, 4l. Mrs L Jewell. Tote: £10.60; £3.10, £4.40. DF: £84.90. CSF: £114.72.

Placepot: £607.30. Quadpot: £58.50.

Towcester

Going: good

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, **Summer Flower** (Mr A Irvine, 7-1); 2, Inclination (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Cochin (10-1). Chopin 11-4 jt-fav. 11 ran. 22l, 1l. Miss Z Davison. Tote: £10.50; £2.80, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £15.30. CSF: £35.58. Tricast: £184.49.

2.45 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Rossell Island** (B Clifford, 11-4); 2, Whispering Court (11-1); 3, Pevent Pendragon (5-2 fav). 8 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £3.70; £1.50, £2.90, £1.40. DF: £22.10. CSF: £31.62. Tricast: £81.56.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Kinnahalla** (F Kenny, 6-4 fav); 2, The Full Monty (4-1); 3, Trouvaille (10-1). 8 ran. 1¾l, 4l. G Balding. Tote: £2.60; £1.40, £1.50, £3.50. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.51. Tricast: £43.46.

3.50 (3m hdle) 1, **Ross Dancer** (L Suthern, 3-1); 2, Northern Star (10-1); 3, Smokey Robot (14-1). Peninsula Boy 11-4 fav. 12 ran. 6l, 10l. J Moore. Tote: £4.30; £1.50, £5.50, £3.70. DF: £57.50. CSF: £32.72. Tricast: £356.24.

4.25 (2m 6f ch) 1, **Avostar** (Mr B Pollock, 4-11 fav); 2, Jupiter Moon (9-2); 3, Severn Invader (9-2). 4 ran. Dist, 2½l. Mrs C Bailey. Tote: £1.40. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.72.

4.55 (2m flat) 1, **Tantivy Bay** (Mr P Flynn, 8-1); 2, Mister Doon (14-1); 3, Sir Robbo (12-1). Simbor Hill (5th) 11-4 fav. 13 ran. 1l, hd. P Hobbs. Tote: £19.20; £4.30, £7.60, £2.90. CSF: £121.18.

5.25 (2m flat) 1, **Kaygebe** (Mr C R Weaver, 14-1); 2, Cimarrone Cove (9-2); 3, Pembroke Square (4-1). Crackrattle (6th) 2-1 fav. 12 ran. 8l, 3½l. P Webber. Tote: £17.70; £3.40, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £90.70. CSF: £76.57.

Placepot: £261.00. Quadpot: £91.80.

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft

2.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Rockcliffe Gossip** (C Llewellyn, 6-1); 2, Enipeus (11-2); 3, Corniche (9-2). Roker Joker (6th) 3-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Dinky Dora, Kalcko. 13l, 4l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £5.90; £1.70, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £16.80. CSF: £37.88. Tricast: £152.20.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Oakbury** (T Siddall, 16-1); 2, Balmoral Princess (8-1); 2, Lord Frederick (25-1). Stamford Hill 15-8 fav. 15 ran. Hd, dd-ht. Miss L Siddall. Tote: £21.40; £3.70, £2.30, £9.80. DF: Oakbury, Balmoral Princess £50.20, Oakbury, Lord Frederick £217.70. CSF: Oakbury, Balmoral Princess £69.61, Oakbury, Lord Frederick £179.28. Tricast: Oakbury, Balmoral Princess, Lord Frederick £1,496.85, Oakbury, Lord Frederick, Balmoral Princess £1,582.04. NR: Admiral's Guest, Leap In The Dark, Twice The Groom.

3.25 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Bronhallow** (Chris Webb, 12-1); 2, Crazy Crusader (4-1); 3, Pessimistic Dick (16-1). More Tuney 11-4 fav. 11 ran. 19l, 11l. Mrs Barbara Waring. Tote: £70.40; £10.50, £1.50, £2.50. DF: £266.60. CSF: £63.14. Tricast: £749.87.

4.00 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Edmond** (R Farrant, 11-8 fav); 2, Act of Faith (2-1); 3, Double Tempo (4-1). 7 ran. NR: Reluckino. Nk, 19l. H Daly. Tote: £2.60; £1.90, £1.50. DF: £3.00. CSF: £4.65.

4.35 (3m ch) 1, **Spring Double** (C Llewellyn, 100-30); 2, Hawaiian Youth (20-1); 3, Hoodwinker (5-1). Grizzly Bear (5th) 2-1 fav. 8 ran. 3l, 1l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £4.20; £1.30, £3.30, £1.80. DF: £27.70. CSF: £56.48. Tricast: £314.80.

5.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Bora Bora** (C Llewellyn, 4-6 fav); 2, Woodland Nymph (12-1); 3, Bessie Black (11-4). 9 ran. NR: Singing Scally. 8l, 9l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.70, £1.30. DF: £18.70. CSF: £12.38.

Placepot: £289.80. Quadpot: £12.00.

Wetherby

Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.20 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Topothenorthracing** (T Reed, 4-1 fav); 2, Mr Christie (12-1); 3, Noble Norman (6-1); 4, Johns The Boy (66-1). 16 ran. NR: Eternal City. 5l, sh hd. P Beaumont. Tote: £4.50; £1.40, £2.30, £1.90, £3.90. DF: £31.80. CSF: £47.46. Tricast: £269.60.

2.55 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Wynyard Knight** (P Niven, 1-2 fav); 2, Keen To The Last (11-4); 3, Tara Rambler (11-1). 7 ran. 5l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.40; £1.60, £1.30. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.01.

3.25 (2m hdle) 1, **Samakaan** (S Kelly, 6-5 fav); 2, Coble Lane (10-1); 3, Stage Whisper (10-1). 14 ran. NR: No Shoes No News. 11l, 1¾l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £2.30, £2.30. DF: £8.30. CSF: £14.10.

3.55 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Major Bell** (T Reed, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Carningford Gale (11-2); 3, Unguided Missile (4-1). 6 ran. 3½l, 2½l. A Whillans. Tote: £4.50; £2.50, £2.80. DF: £10.90. CSF: £18.96.

4.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Santa Jet** (N Hannity, 3-1); 2, Grate Deel (11-4); 3, Harden Glen (16-1). Banker Count (fell) 2-1 fav. 8 ran. NR: Act In Time. 27l, 2½l. G Moore. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £1.20, £3.00. DF: £5.30. CSF: £11.02. Tricast: £98.95.

5.05 (2m hdle) 1, **After Grace** (Mr L McGrath, 12-1); 2, Blaze Of Oak (9-4 fav); 3, Lealy Grove (50-1). 12 ran. NR: Patsander. 9l, 3l. N Mason. Tote: £18.30; £3.70, £1.60, £18.30. DF: £20.60. CSF: £39.41. Tricast: £1,287.34.

Placepot: £54.60. Quadpot: £27.30.

Wincanton

Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **My Man Dan** (L Cummins, 9-4); 2, Estate Agent (8-11 fav); 3, Lobster Cottage (20-1). 8 ran. 2l, 24l. B De Haan. Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £1.20, £2.10. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.66.

2.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Knight Templar** (R Dunwoody, 8-13 fav); 2, Cherokee Boy (100-30); 3, Dunnicks Country (16-1). 5 ran. 21l, dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £1.30. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.01.

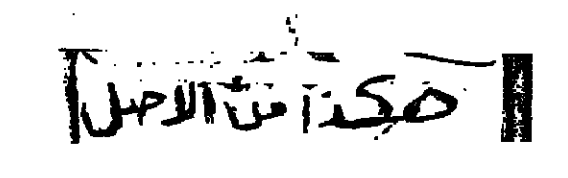
3.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Afon Alwen** (R Widger, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Avern (14-1); 3, Give And Take (12-1). 10 ran. 4l, 7l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.70; £1.80, £4.70, £3.50. DF: £44.20. CSF: £37.13.

3.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Banjo Hill** (O Burrows, 33-1); 2, Ehtefaal (10-1); 3, Regal Gem (14-1); 4, Blue Blazer (5-1). Barnane Walk 3-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: High Summer. ¾l, 7l. C Weedon. Tote: £151.30; £14.30, £2.70, £2.70, £1.30. DF: £904.50. CSF: £331.11. Tricast: £4,440.54.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, **Far East** (O Burrows, 5-1); 2, Nectanebo (20-1); 3, Primitive Streak (14-1). Connaught Cracker 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 8l, 3l. B De Haan. Tote: £6.50; £1.50, £5.30, £2.80. DF: £162.70. CSF: £73.51. Tricast: £1,187.55.

4.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Yorkshire Edition** (R Dunwoody, 4-9 fav); 2, For Christie (7-1); 3, Supreme Fiona (5-1). 6 ran. 11l, 6l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.30; £2.20, £2.10. DF: £3.10. CSF: £3.48.

Placepot: £162.50. Quadpot: not won.



Chris McGrath watches an historic day unfold at Wincanton

Dunwoody makes up the numbers

RICHARD DUNWOODY became numerically the most successful National Hunt jockey when riding the 1679th winner of his career at Wincanton yesterday, but insisted that the end of the road remains distant on the horizon. Nonetheless, the landmark he passed on Yorkshire Edition in the [illegible] race yesterday had [illegible] become a significant destination in itself.

Of course, his craving for Peter Scudamore's all-time National Hunt record feeds upon the same obsessive streak that serves him against the corrosion of time and injury. He stews in the sauna to control his weight and is tediously familiar with Britain's motorways; moreover, he is currently hampered by muscle damage to his right arm. But he resolutely refuses to entertain the thought that he has found an auspicious partner in his quest for a third Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday when he rides Call It A Day. "Hopefully there will be plenty more winners over the next few years," he said. "There'll have to be, because otherwise it won't be long before a certain A P McCoy passes us," he said.

The usual Easter holiday throng was further condensed by Dunwoody's arrival at Wincanton, one short of Scudamore's total and with five strongly fancied rides for Paul Nicholls, the season's leading trainer. Though My Man Dan had not read the script and impudently beat Estate Agent, the odds-on favourite for the first, Knight Templar did chivalrous service in the novice chase. Buckskin Cameo finished sore, however, and so did Dunwoody after Connaught Cracker fell in front of the stands on the first circuit of the handicap chase. He jogged back to the weighing room, however, and Yorkshire Edition, though idling in front and jumping awkwardly, finally brought a typically topsy-turvy National Hunt day to the conclusion lustily demanded by the crowd.

Tomorrow in *Interface*: How to bet on the Grand National via the Internet

Dunwoody was singularly undemonstrative passing the post, and though he managed a very passable "flying dismount", à la Frankie Dettori, he seemed intent on savouring the moment with the dignity and self-possession that have been his nearly constant companions during the past two decades.

He received an embrace from his parents, a magnum of champagne from the racecourse, a warm shake of the hand from Scudamore, and a couple of hundred autograph requests — not one of which he turned down. His breeches smeared green and brown by his fall, he said: "We have had our ups and downs but it's great for the crowd that has supported me through the day that we got there in the end.

"They gave me a brilliant reception and I would have felt I had let them down if I hadn't done it. Yes, this was a priority for me at the beginning of the season, but I still have plenty to keep me going: for a start, it would be nice if I could finish in the top three in the title race again. After 25,000 miles over hurdles and fences, with the odd bumper in between, it's a great moment, especially with my mother, father and sister here."

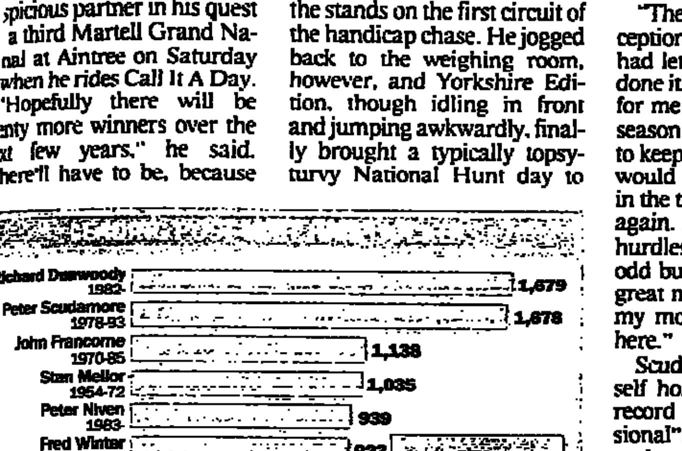
Scudamore declared himself honoured to pass on his record to "the ultimate professional". He said: "People can't understand it, but I don't feel sad or bitter. I'm genuinely delighted for Richard. He has got everything, but the thing that sets him apart from all the others is his determination and courage. There are lots and lots of good riders, but to do what he has done you need that mental toughness.

"Not many people know what he has been through to achieve this — Stan Mellor, John Francome and myself have some idea — and it's a quite magnificent record. You may get more publicity and earn more money in some other sports but I don't think anyone has ever worked harder in sport. He is a truly great man of sport."

Francome, who bowed out with 1,138 winners in 1985, said: "What he's done is like winning four gold medals. He gives 110 per cent and hates getting beaten. You never see him give one a bad ride".

Stan Mellor, the first jump jockey to ride over a thousand winners in 1971 with Ouzo, also paid tribute to Dunwoody: "Richard's a classic, a master jockey and rides with tremendous authority. It's a terrible argument to say who is the best, but Richard will have to be one of the all-time greats".

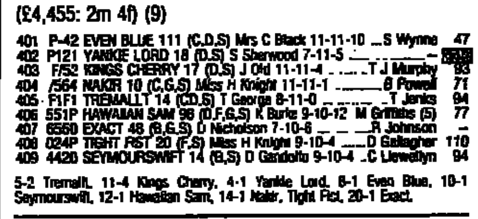
Nicholls likewise paid tribute to Dunwoody's "professionalism in everything he does". The trainer said: "A lot of people have talent but don't know how to use it, they lack that extra commitment. It's one thing being able to ride but another being able to put it all together. He's a top man." So much so, that his colleagues call him The Prince. For all his grace in the saddle, however, his secret remains that he rides with the hunger of a pauper.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Dunwoody, left, is congratulated by Scudamore after passing his record yesterday



MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL
Aintree, April 10

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Double Thriller	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Addington Boy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Call It A Day	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eudipe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fiddling The Facts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
General Wolfe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nahthen Lad	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Suny Bay	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belmont King	16-1	25-1	16-1	20-1
Earth Summit	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Baronet	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Coome Hill	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1

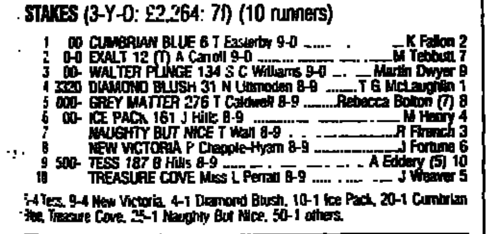
ROUGH QUEST, the 1996 winner, and Senor El Betrutti were the only notable absentees at yesterday's five-day entry stage for the Martell Grand National, at which 36 stood their ground. With Double Thriller having been cut to a ridiculously short price after finishing fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, there is plenty of value left in the race.

The most important factor to weight up at the moment is the going. Described as soft, good to soft in places, will it dry out in time for the fast ground horses to have a chance? There are some showers forecast today, but the remainder of the week should be dry and there is every chance that the fast-draining Aintree course will have genuinely good ground by Saturday. With that in mind, Addington Boy, Baronet, Belmont King and Coome Hill are the ones most likely to shorten in the market before Saturday.

Addington Boy, a useful chaser two years ago when trained by Gordon Richards, spent last season in the wilderness but has returned to form since joining Ferdy Murphy, finishing a respectable fifth in the Gold Cup. He has claims, but has yet to prove himself over such an extreme distance.

Baronet has no such stamina doubts, having won the Scottish Grand National at Ayr last season. He disappointed on unsuitably soft ground in the Midlands National at Uttoxeter last time, but more of a worry is his tendency to make jumping errors. The same applies to Belmont King, the previous Scottish National winner, for whom leading Irish rider Ruby Walsh has been booked.

Coome Hill, winner of the Hennessy at Newbury in 1996, only made it to the course twice last season, but proved that he retains plenty of ability when winning on unsuitably soft ground on his reappearance at Ascot. He has been unable to cope with heavy going on his past two starts, in the Hennessy and King George, but is reportedly in good shape again now. He has been schooled over National-style fences at home by his big-race partner, Steve Wynne, and has the necessary touch of class to win the National. At 25-1 with Ladbrokes, COOME HILL makes plenty of each-way appeal.



SOUTHWELL

ROB WRIGHT
2.10 New Victoria — 3.40 Kosevo
2.40 Gold Chance — 4.10 Artic Courier
3.10 Killarney Jazz — 4.40 Bustling Rio

Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Gold Chance. 3.10 Killarney Jazz. 4.10 ARTIC COURIER (nap).

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.10 KING ARTHUR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,264: 7f) (10 runners)

1 00 CUMBRIAN BLUE 6 T Easterby 9-0 ... K Fallon 2
2 0-0 EXALT 12 (T) A Carroll 9-0 ... M Tebbutt 7
3 00- WALTER PLINGE 134 S C Williams 9-0 ... Martin Dwyer 9
4 3320 DIAMOND BLUSH 31 N Littmoden 8-9 ... T G McLaughlin 1
5 000- GREY MATTER 276 T Caldwell 8-9 ... Rebecca Bolton (7) 8
6 00- ICE PACK 161 J Hills 8-9 ... M Henry 4
7 NAUGHTY BUT NICE T Wall 8-9 ... R Ffrench 3
8 NEW VICTORIA P Chapple-Hyam 8-9 ... J Fortune 6
9 500- TESS 187 B Hills 8-9 ... A Eddery (5) 10
10 TREASURE COVE Miss L Perratt 8-9 ... J Weaver 5

5-4 Tess, 9-4 New Victoria, 4-1 Diamond Blush, 10-1 Ice Pack, 20-1 Cumbrian Blue, Treasure Cove, 25-1 Naughty But Nice, 50-1 others.

2.40 GALAHAD CLAIMING STAKES (£2,082: 5f) (9)

1 /00- CRYSTAL LOUGH 331 N Tinkler 4-8-13 ... Kim Tinkler 1
2 0-00 GOLD CHANCE 15 (B) G Chung 3-8-11 ... K Fallon 9
3 050- TILBURG 271 Mrs N Macauley 4-8-11 ... P McCabe 8
4 000- BUSINESS WOMAN 243 M W Easterby 3-8-10 ... G Parkin 7
5 0-25 AMBER JASMINE 85 (BF) P Haslam 3-8-7 ... P Goode (5) 5
6 60-6 FLYING MEMORY 18 N Littmoden 3-8-6 ... T G McLaughlin 4
7 0403 GOCHINOS 6 S C Williams 3-8-5 ... D Williams (7) 3
8 HIGHLAND SPICE Miss L Perratt 3-8-4 ... N Kennedy 2
9 6043 E B PEARL 18 N Bycroft 3-8-0 ... Martin Dwyer 6

11-10 Amber Jasmine, 5-2 Gochinos, 9-2 E B Pearl, 12-1 others.

3.10 PERCEVAL HANDICAP (£2,853: 1m) (14)

1 000- HIGHBORN 150 (C,D,F,G,S) P Felgate 10-10-0 ... D Sweeney 7
2 56-1 SEVEN 15 (B,C) Miss S Wilton 4-9-10 ... N Pollard (3) 4
3 1120 MUTAHADETH 10 (B,CD) D Shaw 5-9-9 ... J Fanning 2
4 4511 KINGCHIP BOY 18 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 10-9-6 ... P McCabe 11
5 4344 KILLARNEY JAZZ 18 (B,CD) G Chung 4-9-2 ... K Fallon 5
6 3130 WITHOUT FRIENDS 10 (V,CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-12 ... Dean McKeown 6
7 503- MUARA BAY 165 (CD,G) J Glover 5-8-11 ... F Lynch 12
8 01-0 THE STAGER 29 (T,CD,F,G) J Jenkins 7-8-11 ... L Dettori 8
9 005- COURT EXPRESS 182 (F) W Haigh 5-8-9 ... A Culhane 9
10 4663 TOM 21 (V,CD) C Fairhurst 4-8-8 ... N Kennedy 13
11 1000 CHINABERRY 29 (CD) M Brittain 5-8-6 ... D Mernagh (5) 10
12 -005 PINE RIDGE LAD 18 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 9-8-5 ... G Duffield 3
13 4550 AWESOME VENTURE 5 (CD,S) M Chapman 9-8-5 ... S Righton 1
14 /606 SUPREME MAIMOON 21 M Polglase 5-8-5 ... V Halliday 14

9-2 Kingchip Boy, 11-2 Killarney Jazz, 6-1 Without Friends, 13-2 Mutahadeth, 7-1 Highborn, Muara Bay, 10-1 Seven, The Stager, Tom, 16-1 others.

3.40 LANCELOT CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,306: 7f) (16)

1 1120 GARNOCK VALLEY 5 (B,BF,D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-11 ... G Carter 5
2 5628 MAWKAB 6 Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9 ... K Fallon 1
3 6268 WAITING KNIGHT 18 (V) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-9 ... P McCabe 13
4 000- HILLINSKI 223 M Mullineaux 5-9-7 ... R Lappin 15
5 600- JACK TO A KING 199 J Balding 4-9-7 ... J Edmunds 4
6 0302 KOSEVO 10 (V,CD) D Shaw 5-9-7 ... R Mullen (3) 2
7 305/ NUTTY STAN 676 Miss M Rowland 5-9-7 ... T G McLaughlin 11
8 6060 SEA YA MAITE 53 (C) S Bowring 5-9-7 ... G Strange 7
9 515- SHARP STEEL 374 (CD) Miss S Wilton 4-9-7 ... C Rutter 10
10 040- ZOOM UP 168 (B,G) N Graham 5-9-7 ... N Pollard (3) 6
11 31- BIRTHDAY VENTURE 137 (CD) S Woods 4-9-4 ... Dane O'Neill 16
12 400/ BLUSHING VICTORIA 594 (F) J Glover 4-9-4 ... S D Williams 14
13 6/0- ESSE 109 A Smith 4-9-4 ... R Winston (3) 3
14 00-0 POETRY IN MOTION 11 (B) E Alston 4-9-4 ... A Culhane 9
15 006- ALLRIGHTHEN 193 T Wall 3-8-7 ... R Ffrench 8
16 000- FOURGREYS 188 Miss J A Camacho 3-8-7 ... N Kennedy 12

3-1 Birthday Venture, 7-2 Garnock Valley, 5-1 Mawkab, 13-2 Waiting Knight, Sea Ya Maite, 8-1 Kosevo, Blushing Victoria, 10-1 others.

4.10 HOLY GRAIL APPRENTICES SELLING STAKES (£1,787: 1m 4f) (7)

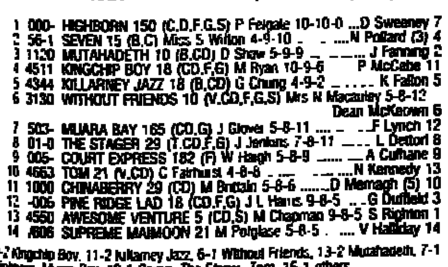
1 -333 ARTIC COURIER 40 (V,D,F,G) D Cosgrove 8-8-13 ... D Williams 6
2 0-05 JACK THE LAD 8 (B,F,G,S) J Hetherton 5-8-13 ... G Hannon 7
3 -244 MONACO GOLD 48 (C,D,F,S) D Cosgrove 7-8-13 ... J Savage (3) 3
4 -600 AVERHAM STAR 49 W Clay 4-8-12 ... S Finnamore (3) 2
5 6000 CAROL AGAIN 18 (CD) N Bycroft 7-8-8 ... D Glennon (5) 5
6 -400 HILL FARM DANCER 8 (D,G) W Bisbourne 8-8-8 ... D Hayden (3) 1
7 002- BRETECHE 17J (V,T) M Pipe 4-8-7 ... P Clarke 4

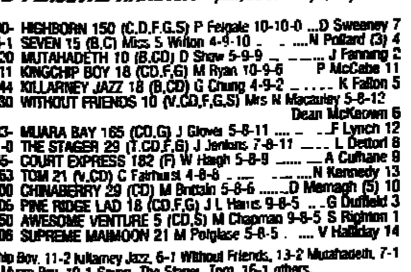
13-8 Artic Courier, 11-4 Hill Farm Dancer, 4-1 Breteche, 9-2 Monaco Gold, 20-1 Jack The Lad, Carol Again, 33-1 Averham Star.

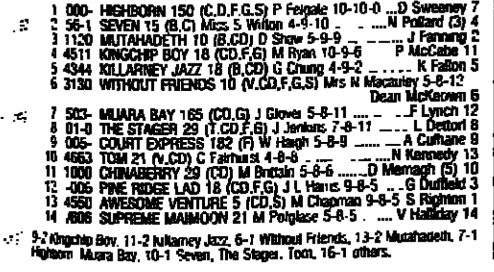
4.40 EXCALIBUR HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,190: 1m 3f) (9)

1 34-1 CHALCEDONY 91 T Barron 9-7 ... J Fortune 2
2 2135 THE LAST WORD 6 (C) R Hollinshead 9-4 ... D Sweeney 6
3 00-3 OULTON BROAD 15 J Portman 9-3 ... R Studholme (5) 4
4 -431 BUSTLING RIO 46 (CD) P Haslam 9-2 ... J Weaver 3
5 6130 MARTHA REILLY 10 (C) Mrs B Waring 9-2 ... G Bardwell 1
6 3-30 GOODBYE GOLDSTONE 34 T Naughton 9-0 ... F Norton 8
7 5126 CRASH CALL LADY 6 C Allen 8-6 ... N Carlisle 9
8 000- NEW MOON 218 C Thornton 8-5 ... Dean McKeown 7
9 00-4 NETHERHALL 18 M Meagher 8-0 ... P Fessey 5

9-4 Bustling Rio, 7-2 Chalcedony, 5-1 The Last Word, Goodbye Goldstone, 6-1 Martha Reilly, 7-1 Crash Call Lady, 16-1 Oulton Broad, 66-1 others.







COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. Miss S Wilton, 12 winners from 46 runners, 26.1%; A Carroll, 4 from 16, 25.0%; S Woods, 6 from 28, 21.4%; P Haslam, 25 from 134, 18.7%; M Ryan, 26 from 150, 17.3%; T Barron, 26 from 152, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS. K Fallon, 21 winners from 101 rides, 20.8%; L Dettori, 16 from 79, 20.3%; G Hannon, 3 from 15, 20.0%; R Studholme, 5 from 28, 17.9%; N Pollard, 6 from 34, 17.6%; G Parkin, 12 from 70, 17.1%.

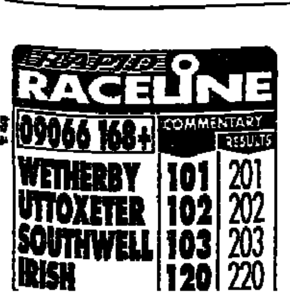
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 3.40 Poetry In Motion. 4.10 Breteche, Jack The Lad. **Uttoxeter:** 3.00 Red Parade, Bayline Star, Dawn Lad. 4.00 Siren Song. 5.00 Medium Wave, Moonraking. **Wetherby:** 2.50 Royal Crimson. 4.50 Lord Dorcet.

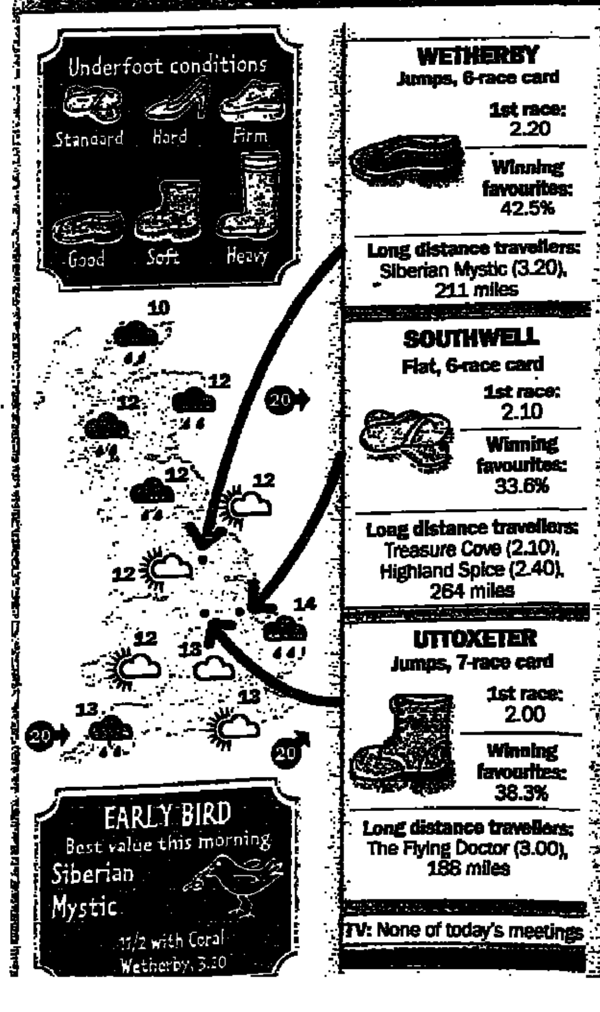
Johnston excels at Newcastle

MARK JOHNSTON swept aside any notion that his string is out of sorts with a 93-1 treble at Newcastle yesterday. Several of the trainer's runners had disappointed over the weekend but the Middleham yard was back in peak form as Tiler, Royal Rebel and Doonaree obliged.

The newcomer, Doonaree, was the most impressive of the Johnston winners, travelling well and quickening smoothly under Darryll Holland to defeat the favourite, Fnan, in the Sarah Jane Anderson Maiden Stakes.

Doonaree, a son of the leading sire Sadler's Wells, cost 200,000 guineas when bought for owner Martin Burke at Goffs Sales.





UTTOXETER

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Marsh Marigold — 3.30 Tremallt
2.30 Tombola — 4.00 Davoski
3.00 Titan Thai — 4.30 Oriental Boy — 5.00 Orsuno

Carl Evans: 2.30 Tombola.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 SPOTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,715: 2m) (16 runners)

101 0032 BIG ATOLL 45 (B) S Brookshaw 7-11-11 ... A Dobbin 91
102 0062 SHOPAHOLIC 13 (BF) S Sherwood 6-11-9 ... H Oliver (5) 66
103 5502 RON'S ROUND 10 M Pipe 5-11-7 ... S Wynne [illegible]
104 561P GENERAL FLIGHT 73 (D,S) A Turnell 5-11-5 ... M Griffiths (5) 57
105 -255 LEADING NOTE 116 Miss H Knight 5-11-3 ... A P McCoy 78
106 -20P DUNSTON BILL 66 B Leavy 5-11-1 ... W Worthington 40
107 0403 MEEANDTWO 32 J Mackie 6-11-0 ... R Thornton 59
108 1344 BARTON SCAMP 24 (CD,S) D Williams 7-10-12 ... D Griffiths 92
109 P-54 TROUBLED MAN 13 N Henderson 8-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald 48
110 0116 CHARLIE CHANG 20 (B,BF) B Llewellyn 6-10-10 ... D McPhail (5) 83
111 0600 BUKEHORN 71 Mrs P Sly 8-10-5 ... W Marston 70
112 R06 BRYNKIR 25 D Murray Smith 5-10-3 ... D Gallagher 69
113 5P8P DAMIEN'S CHOICE 92 P Eccles 7-10-1 ... D Byrne 71
114 4005 MARSH MARIGOLD 8F (D,S) G Fierro 5-10-0 ... X Aizpuru (3) 89
115 3P54 EL FUERTE 10 W Clay 4-10-0 ... G Tormey 81
116 2P/P LITTLE KENNY 35 (V) R J Price 6-10-0 ... I Mogford (7) —

4-1 Ron's Round, 6-1 Big Atoll, Meeandtwo, 7-1 Shopaholic, Troubled Man, 8-1 Charlie Chang, 10-1 Barton Scamp, 14-1 others.

2.30 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTERS CHASE (£1,593: 2m 7f) (16)

201 2421 DESPERATE 13 (D,G,S) Mrs J Saunders 11-12-10 ... Mr T Lane (7) 64
202 -111 TOMBOLA 22 (G,S) Mrs C Bailey 8-12-10 ... Mr B Pollock 71
203 5UP0 ANDERMATT 13 (T,S) J Mackie 12-12-3 ... Mr J Cornwall (7) 102
204 P13U BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 13 (S) M A Kemp 10-12-3 ... Mr W Wales —
205 PFPU CANISTER CASTLE 6 (F) F Matthews 11-12-3 ... Mr D Sherlock (7) —
206 25/4 CASTLEROYAL 24P (G) B McNichol 10-12-3 ... Mr J P McNamara —
207 0-R3 DANDE DOVE 17 (B) A Deakin 8-12-3 ... Mr J Crowley —
208 12/ KANCELSKIS 1466 (S) D Murray Smith 10-12-3 ... Mr R Forristal —
209 P/0P MICKLEOVER 17P D McCain 9-12-3 ... Mr D Dickenson (7) —
210 3-PR PANT LLIN 33 (B,F) F Matthews 13-12-3 ... Mr H Ephgrave (7) —
211 5-3P RIDWAN 13 (S) Mrs S Sleight 12-12-3 ... Mr S Morris (7) —
212 FPFF ROSKEEN BRIDGE 23P (S) P Swift 8-12-3 ... Mr N Kent (7) 45
213 1-32 SECRET BAY 10P (F,G,S) C Dennis 10-12-3 ... Mr S Swiers [illegible]
214 P-24 SILVER STICK 25 (C,F,G,S) M W Easterby 12-12-3 ... Mr M Watson (5) 16
215 234U WILLCHRIS 7 (F,G,S) P Riddick 12-12-3 ... Mr G Richards (7) 101
216 PUP/ WILL IT LAST 736P (S) M Hill 13-11-12 ... Mr P Rymn (7) —

4-5 Tombola, 11-2 Secret Bay, 6-1 Silver Stick, 8-1 Desperate, 14-1 others.

3.00 DRAUGHT BASS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,208: 3m) (18)

301 65-P HURRICANE ANDREW 11 (D,F,G,S) J A Moore 11-11-10 ... A Dobbin —
302 P/PP CAPO CASTANUM 13 (D,F,G) Miss H Knight 10-11-10 ... T J Murphy —
303 2210 SATCOTINO 8 (G,S) K Burke 8-11-9 ... S Kelly (5) 95
304 4506 THE FLYING DOCTOR 14 (G,S) P Bowen 9-11-4 ... W Marston 107
305 U/PP RED PARADE 14 (B,S) N Hawke 11-11-4 ... S Wynne —
306 F333 TOM PINCH 20 (BF,D,G) G Balding 10-11-1 ... A P McCoy 97
307 U3UP MR PERKUPP 14 (D,S) Lord Tyrone 8-10-13 ... S Curran 18
308 006P BAYLINE STAR 31 (B,S) Miss S Baxter 9-10-13 ... Gary Lyons [illegible]
309 UP62 TITAN THAI 8 (V,F,S) N Mason 10-10-13 ... K Johnson 89
310 PP65 HELLO ME MAN 3 (B,F,G,S) B Llewellyn 11-10-10 ... O McPhail (5) 67
311 P5P3 DEEL QUAY 14 (T,S) Mrs J Buckley 8-10-7 ... G Tormey 89
312 SP3P MAY SUNSET 12 (B,G) N Hawke 9-10-6 ... B Powell 81
313 5-PP A SUITABLE GIRL 10 (T) J Neville 8-10-6 ... T Dascombe —
314 P00P DAWN LAD 19 (B,D,F,G) W Haigh 10-10-2 ... G Lee 64
315 66PP DESPERATE DAYS 8 (D,S) F Kirby 10-10-0 ... J Supple 47
316 PP-P CRIME STOPPER 133 Miss S Wilton 6-10-0 ... Mr N Fehily (7) —
317 B450 FASTINI GOLD 13 (B,F) R J Price 7-10-0 ... J Mogford (7) 90
318 0025 NOT AN INCH 169 K Bishop 10-10-0 ... R Greene 36

3.30 SCANNER APPEAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,455: 2m 4f) (9)

401 P-42 EVEN BLUE 111 (C,D,S) Mrs C Black 11-11-10 ... S Wynne 47
402 P121 YANKIE LORD 18 (D,S) S Sherwood 7-11-5 ... — [illegible]
403 F/52 KINGS CHERRY 17 (D,S) J Old 11-11-4 ... T J Murphy 93
404 /564 NAKIR 10 (C,G,S) Miss H Knight 11-11-1 ... B Powell 71
405 F1F1 TREMALLT 14 (CD,S) T George 8-11-0 ... T Jenks 94
406 551P HAWAIIAN SAM 98 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 9-10-12 ... M Griffiths (5) 77
407 6550 EXACT 48 (B,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-6 ... R Johnson —
408 024P TIGHT FIST 20 (F,S) Miss H Knight 9-10-4 ... D Gallagher 110
409 4420 SEYMOURSWIFT 14 (B,S) D Gandolfo 9-10-4 ... C Llewellyn 94

5-2 Tremallt, 11-4 Kings Cherry, 4-1 Yankie Lord, 8-1 Even Blue, 10-1 Seymourswift, 12-1 Hawaiian Sam, 14-1 Nakir, Tight Fist, 20-1 Exact.

4.00 SCANNER APPEAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,084: 2m) (9)

501 1422 DAVOSKI 24 (BF,CD,S) Miss V Williams 5-11-13 ... S Kelly (5) 120
502 5-4P MR MORIARTY 255 (T,CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 8-11-4 ... T Dascombe 108
503 5066 SIREN SONG 24 (B,D,F,S) C Mann 8-11-1 ... Mr N Fehily (7) [illegible]
504 2121 KING'S CROSS 26 (D,G,S) A J Wilson 10-10-13 ... Mr R Forristal (5) 114
505 3003 KINGDOM EMPEROR 13 (D,F,S) W Clay 5-10-9 ... G Tormey 105
506 PU06 SAMANID 10 (CD,F,G,S) Miss L Siddall 7-10-7 ... T Siddall (5) 118
507 P013 GET THE POINT 18 (D,S) S Gollings 5-10-5 ... D Gallagher 121
508 F3F4 SHU GAA 25 (D,G,S) J Mackie 6-10-5 ... R Thornton 89
509 4223 TONKA 45 (D,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-3 ... C Llewellyn 114

5-2 King's Cross, 3-1 Davoski, 7-1 Siren Song, Get The Point, 8-1 Kingdom Emperor, Tonka, 14-1 Mr Moriarty, Samanid, 16-1 Shu Gaa.

4.30 CJ PEARCE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,514: 2m 5f) (11)

601 1221 ORIENTAL BOY 31 (T,D,S) R Lee 7-11-10 ... R Johnson 100
602 334P EZANAK 28 Miss H Knight 6-11-10 ... D Gallagher —
603 2P52 SPECIALIZE 8 (B,F,G) K Burke 7-11-8 ... A P McCoy 103
604 4212 ORIENTAL STYLE 13 (B,D,S) G Balding 5-11-2 ... F Keniry (7) 93
605 4/51 RARE OCCURANCE 17 (T,S) A Carroll 9-11-1 ... — [illegible]
606 2125 AMERCIUS 272 (B,F) R Simpson 7-11-0 ... Mr J Owen (7) 96
607 5825 I'M MAGGY 17 (G) S Brookshaw 9-11-0 ... A Dobbin 76
608 D42/ WARFIELD LAD 1090 (BF,S) K Bailey 10-11-0 ... Mr R Forristal (5) —
609 4231 DOVETTO 13 (S) C J Price 10-10-10 ... L Cummins (3) 77
610 P-44 CAPTAIN WALTER 76 J Old 9-10-9 ... T J Murphy 50
611 5-PP PURBECK CAVALIER 131 (S) N Hawke 10-10-1 ... B Powell —

3-1 Dovetto, 9-2 Rare Occurance, 5-1 Oriental Boy, 6-1 Oriental Style, 7-1 Specialize, 8-1 Amercius, I'm Maggy, 20-1 others.

5.00 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,820: 2m) (16)

1 -436 BOOT'S MATE 101 J Neville 7-11-4 ... Miss P Jones —
2 040- JAMBO BWANA 403 N Henderson 6-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald —
3 P1/ MAGILLEN 758P (S) K Bailey 7-11-4 ... Mr R Forristal (5) —
4 05- MANOLITO 313 M Wilkinson 5-11-4 ... C Llewellyn —
5 -354 MEDIUM WAVE 63 (B) S Sherwood 7-11-4 ... — 59
6 0 MOONRAKING 5F (V) Miss S Wilton 6-11-4 ... Mr N Fehily (7) —
7 32 ORSUNO 12 (BF) M Hammond 5-11-4 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
8 2002 SMOKING GUN 17 W Jenks 6-11-4 ... T Jenks 67
9 006 THE UGLY GUNNER 27 D McCain 6-11-4 ... A C Coyle (5) —
10 325- WURLITZER 419 Mrs L Wadham 7-11-4 ... J Tizzard —
11 00-0 LOCH NA GLEANN 165 F Jordan 7-10-13 ... D Gallagher —
12 SOMER SOLO 101F (T) Miss L Siddall 6-10-13 ... T Siddall (5) —
13 CORPUS CHRISTI 518F Miss V Williams 4-10-12 ... S Kelly (5) —
14 55 KASID 38 C Mann 4-10-12 ... J Magee 57
15 83 RHAPSODY IN BLUE 10 A Turnell 4-10-12 ... R Johnson 38
16 4 KUSTOM KIT KATE 10F S Bowring 4-10-7 ... T Dascombe 27

6-4 Orsuno, 6-1 Magillen, Medium Wave, 10-1 Moonraking, Wurlitzer, 12-1 Jambo Bwana, Manolito, Corpus Christi, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Simpson, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%; T George, 10 from 37, 27.0%; M Pipe, 28 from 106, 26.4%; C Mann, 9 from 37, 24.3%; D Gandolfo, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Hammond, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Nicholson, 22 from 106, 20.8%; Miss H Knight, 16 from 78, 20.5%; P Bowen, 7 from 35, 20.0%; N Henderson, 7 from 35, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: L Cummins, 5 winners from 14 rides, 35.7%; A McCoy, 33 from 110, 30.0%; J Magee, 3 from 14, 21.4%; R Greene, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Bradley, 6 from 38, 15.8%; C Llewellyn, 12 from 84, 14.3%; T J Murphy, 7 [illegible]

WETHERBY

ROB WRIGHT
2.20 Royal Castle (nb) — 3.50 Spirit Of Steel
2.50 Queensway — 4.20 Trade Dispute
3.20 Siberian Mystic — 4.50 CORAL ISLAND (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 FOREVER NOBLE.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Trade Dispute.



READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

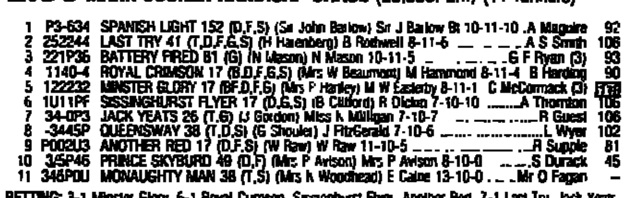
GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS

2.20 BENFIELD FORD NOVICES HURDLE (£3,436: 2m 4f 110yd) (20 runners)

1 11 FULLOPEP 189 (F,G) (Mr & Mrs W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-12 ... Mr A Dempsey 59
2 P22224 FOREVER NOBLE 31 (F) (Mrs F Ratter) O Sherwood 6-11-6 ... J A McCarthy [illegible]
3 521341 WESTERTON 14 (D,S) (J Murdoch) J FitzGerald 6-11-6 ... P Niven 62
4 P03 AGINOR 96 (T) (Mrs R Key & Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 5-11-0 ... C McCormack (3) 56
5 0-405P BALLYDAVID 38 (Mrs A O'Sullivan) J Howard Johnson 7-11-0 ... N Hannity (5) 54
6 0-5PP BEAU BRUMMIE BOY 38 (Mrs O Williams & G Williams) I Williams 5-11-0 ... R Wakley —
7 P0 CLIFFORD BAY 26 (P Sellars) M Hammond 5-11-0 ... B Harding —
8 24204P FORMIDABLE PARTNER 45 (Mrs R Key & Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 6-11-0 ... B Storey 78
9 00/24 OPEN FAIRWAY 89 (Whitworth Racing) W Storey 6-11-0 ... R McGrath —
10 d12 ROYAL CASTLE 10 (Mrs S Cross & M Salaj) M Tompkins 5-11-0 ... A Maguire 94
11 065R24 SILVER HOWE 25 (C J G Partnership) D Moffatt 6-11-0 ... D J Moffatt 59
12 -265F0 WILLIAM RUFUS 122 (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 8-11-0 ... M Brennan 38
13 06/4-0 AILSAE 17 (K Foster) Mrs J Brown 6-10-9 ... L Wyer 43
14 /003-0 GEM OF HOLLY 15 (R Wood) R Wood 6-10-9 ... Mr D Fagan —
15 05 DELAYED REACTION 49 (A Milner) M Sowersby 4-10-7 ... A S Smith —
16 050F33 HAPPY DAYS 24 (J Barrett) D Moffatt 4-10-7 ... DOUBTFUL 61
17 0 LE SAUVAGE 29 (Ebor Partnership) D Barker 4-10-7 ... J Callaghan 24
18 3 NORTHDAY 41 (W Wright) M Sowersby 4-10-7 ... E Callaghan 43
19 0 SILVER SPIDER 39 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 4-10-7 ... R Farrant —
20 APRIL SPIRIT 59F (Mrs B Ramsden) R Hollinshead 4-10-2 ... S Durack —

BETTING: 2-1 Forever Noble, 5-2 Fullopep, 7-2 Royal Castle, 7-1 Westerton, 12-1 Silver Howe, 16-1 Aginor, Formidable Partner, Northday, 20-1 others.

1998: SUPREME GENOTIN 9-11-0 M A Fitzgerald (4-9 fav) J Old 7 ran



FORM ANALYSIS A big field but likely to concern just a handful. Fullopep should be suited a step up in trip after two victories over two miles, but his double penalty leaves him vulnerable. Westerton is not short of stamina, as his 5l victory over the odds-on McHattie at Uttoxeter last time (2m 4f, heavy ground) demonstrated. He may not be as well served by this faster ground, however. A better proposition could be the splendidly consistent FOREVER NOBLE, who has run respectably over two miles on his latest two starts but is better at this distance judged on his second to the useful Kings Boy over 2m 4f at Doncaster in January. Royal Castle is the other worth serious consideration. He was a good ½l second to Majesty over 2m at Newbury ten days ago and previously demoted from first after winning over this trip at Fakenham.

2.50 MARK COCKER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,353: 2m) (11 runners)

1 P3-634 SPANISH LIGHT 152 (D,F,S) (Sir John Barlow) Sir J Barlow Bt 10-11-10 ... A Maguire 92
2 252244 LAST TRY 41 (T,D,F,G,S) (H Haenberg) B Rothwell 8-11-6 ... A S Smith 106
3 221P36 BATTERY FIRED 81 (G) (N Mason) N Mason 10-11-5 ... G F Ryan (3) 93
4 1140-4 ROYAL CRIMSON 17 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs W Beaumont) M Hammond 8-11-4 ... B Harding 90
5 122232 MINSTER GLORY 17 (BF,D,F,G) (Mrs P Hanley) M W Easterby 8-11-1 ... C McCormack (3) [illegible]
6 1U11PF SISSINGHURST FLYER 17 (D,G,S) (B Clifford) R Dickin 7-10-10 ... A Thornton 105
7 34-0P3 JACK YEATS 26 (T,G) (J Gordon) Miss K Milligan 7-10-7 ... R Guest 106
8 -3445P QUEENSWAY 38 (T,D,S) (G Shouler) J FitzGerald 7-10-6 ... L Wyer 102
9 P002U3 ANOTHER RED 17 (D,F,S) (W Raw) W Raw 11-10-5 ... R Supple 81
10 3/5P46 PRINCE SKYBURD 49 (D,F) (Mrs P Avison) Mrs P Avison 8-10-0 ... S Durack 45
11 348P0U MONAUGHTY MAN 38 (T,S) (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 13-10-0 ... Mr D Fagan —

BETTING: 3-1 Minster Glory, 6-1 Royal Crimson, Sissinghurst Flyer, Another Red, 7-1 Last Try, Jack Yeats, 8-1 Spanish Light, 10-1 others.

1998: PRINCE OF SAINTS 7-11-1 R Garritty (9-4 fav) M Hammond 8 ran

The front-running Last Try is back at his favoured trip although he does seem to reserve his best for Catterick. He is likely to be tackled for the lead by Minster Glory, which might not help the chances of either. Battery Fired has been running over hurdles on his latest outings, and while he was in fair form over fences early in the season it is disconcerting that one of his hurdles starts was in a seller. Sissinghurst Flyer has been varying between winning and failing to complete, although even the successes were in modest company. In a tricky race, it could be worth taking a chance with ROYAL CRIMSON. He went off the boil in his final two runs last season but had previously completed a double in good style. With the benefit of his seasonal debut behind him and the blinkers applied, he looks ready to go well.

3.20 TOTE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£5,682: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 115230 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 6F (C,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-13 ... M H Naughton (5) 96
2 121340 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 11F (F,G,S) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-11 ... R Farrant 94
3 115320 TARA-BROGAN 20 (D,F,G) (P Kelly) I Williams 6-11-6 ... S Durack 82
4 160350 BAKKAR 20 (V,T,CD,G) (M Burke's 5th Family Settlement) T Easterby 5-11-5 ... L Wyer 110
5 112115 DORANS WAY 29 (D,F,S) (Mrs A O'Sullivan) G M Moore 8-11-0 ... N Hannity (5) 113
6 6-2223 GROOVING 32 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs C Acheson) J Howard Johnson 10-10-12 ... A Thornton 91
7 1-1003 SIBERIAN MYSTIC 47 (D,G,S) (Glenferry And Partners) P Murphy 6-10-8 ... L Aspell 87
8 3-3143 TAKEAMEMO 48 (T,S) (Sherwood Partnership) O Sherwood 6-10-8 ... J A McCarthy [illegible]
9 12565- NO GIMMICKS 392 (S) (J Smith's Ltd) J FitzGerald 7-10-7 ... P Niven —

BETTING: 4-1 Once More For Luck, Siberian Mystic, 5-1 Dorans Way, 11-2 Bakkar, 7-1 Grooving, 15-2 Tara-Brogan, 9-1 No Gimmicks, 10-1 Takeamemo, 12-1 Jamaican Flight.

1998: TEN MILE HILL 7-10-3 R Guest (11-2) Mrs S Smith 8 ran

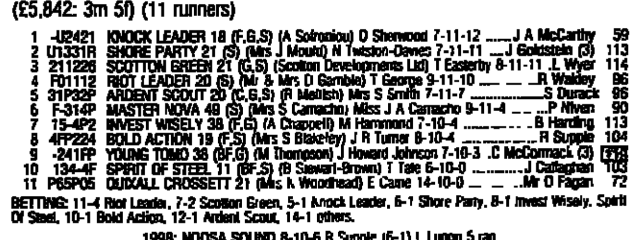
Plenty of pace in prospect here with Dorans Way, Jamaican Flight, Tara-Brogan and Takeamemo all capable of running from the front. Tara-Brogan makes most appeal of the quartet, but they could conspire to set the race up for ONCE MORE FOR LUCK. Consistency is not his strong suit, but he has turned in some cracking efforts this term, including a 7l win from Cumbrian Maestro over 2m here in December. This trip is probably the limit of his stamina, but the likely fast pace will allow him to be held up and produced late, tactics which seem to suit him well. Grooving was beaten at 4-1 on in a claimer last time, which hardly advertises his claims, while No Gimmicks has a long absence to overcome and probably needs further. Siberian Mystic, who goes well fresh, is a more plausible alternative.

3.50 WETHERBY LONG DISTANCE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£5,842: 3m 5f) (11 runners)

1 -U2421 KNOCK LEADER 18 (F,G,S) (A Sotiriou) O Sherwood 7-11-12 ... J A McCarthy 59
2 U1331R SHORE PARTY 21 (S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-11 ... J Goldstein (3) 113
3 211226 SCOTTON GREEN 21 (G,S) (Scotton Developments Ltd) T Easterby 8-11-11 ... L Wyer 114
4 F01112 RIOT LEADER 20 (S) (Mr & Mrs D Gamble) T George 9-11-10 ... R Wakley 96
5 31P32P ARDENT SCOUT 20 (C,G,S) (R Mellish) Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 ... S Durack 96
6 F-314P MASTER NOVA 49 (S) (Mrs S Camacho) Miss J A Camacho 9-11-4 ... P Niven 90
7 15-4P2 INVEST WISELY 38 (F,G) (A Chappell) M Hammond 7-10-4 ... B Harding 113
8 4FP224 BOLD ACTION 19 (F,S) (Mrs S Blakeley) J R Turner 8-10-4 ... R Supple 104
9 -241FP YOUNG TOMO 38 (BF,G) (M Thompson) J Howard Johnson 7-10-3 ... C McCormack (3) [illegible]
10 134-4F SPIRIT OF STEEL 11 (BF,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 6-10-0 ... J Callaghan 103
11 P65P05 OUIXALL CROSSETT 21 (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 14-10-0 ... Mr D Fagan 72

BETTING: 11-4 Riot Leader, 7-2 Scotton Green, 5-1 Knock Leader, 6-1 Shore Party, 8-1 Invest Wisely, Spirit Of Steel, 10-1 Bold Action, 12-1 Ardent Scout, 14-1 others.

1998: NOOSA SOUND 8-10-6 R Supple (6-1) L Lungo 5 ran



Riot Leader was unlucky not to stretch his winning sequence to four at the Cheltenham (4m) last time — going down by a neck to Deejaydee after his rider lost his whip. He is likely to make a bold bid to get back on the winning trail but may find a concession of 26lb to SPIRIT OF STEEL (nap) beyond him. Tom Tate's youngster, a half-brother to Gold Cup winner See More Business, shaped with promise on his steeplechasing debut at Sedgefield after a year on the sidelines and then looked set to win at Kelso last time, only to stumble and fall after jumping five out. Staying is his forte and he will not mind the ground. Shore Party plugged on dourly to beat Scotton Green and Ardent Scout in heavy ground at Uttoxeter (3m 2f) in February and is weighted to confirm the form. None of that trio covered themselves in glory at the Cheltenham Festival last time though and we may have seen the best of them for this season. Knock Leader, winner of a modest race at Fakenham last time, has been done no favours by the handicapper while Young Tomo and Invest Wisely (both suited by fast ground) arrive here with something to prove.

4.20 HOWARD BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£1,204: 3m 1f) (8 runners)

1 4/1311 TRADE DISPUTE 10P (F,G,S) (G Tuer) E W Tuer 7-12-5 ... Mr G Tuer (7) 82
2 211-42 JOINT ACCOUNT 48 (F,G,S) (K Needham) Mrs F Needham 9-12-2 ... Mrs F Needham (3) [illegible]
3 F11-2F RED REBEL 27 (BF,G,S) (Mrs M Moody) T Walford 7-12-2 ... Mr N Wilson 25
4 322- BILLY BLACK 345P (A Moulton) Miss M Rowland 6-11-12 ... Miss S Wright (7) —
5 45-FP3 MARSH'S LAW 9P (B,F,G,S) (C Wilson) C Wilson 12-11-12 ... Mr C Mulhall (7) —
6 P14-P5 SCOTCH 'N IRISH 44P (G) (Miss P Fitton) Miss P Fitton 10-11-12 ... Mr P Aspell (7) —
7 3-64P2 THREE POTATO FOUR 17P (F,S) Sir J Barlow Bt 12-11-12 ... Mr D Barlow (5) 75
8 0S-5P3 YORNOANGEL 15 (S) (I Brown) I A Brown 10-11-12 ... Mr G Markham (7) 17

BETTING: 8-11 Trade Dispute, 4-1 Joint Account, 9-2 Red Rebel, 12-1 Billy Black, 16-1 Three Potato Four, 25-1 Yornoangel, 33-1 Marsh's Law, 50-1 Scotch 'n Irish.

1998: LAST OPTION 6-11-12 Mrs F Needham (11-10 fav) R Tate 5 ran

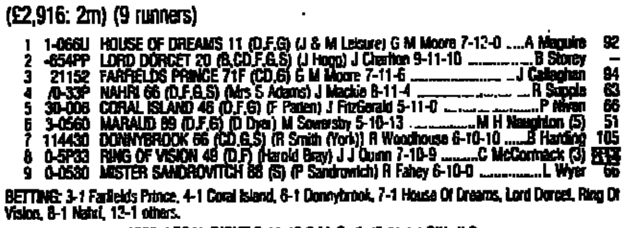
The market is likely to be dominated by Trade Dispute, Joint Account and Red Rebel and it will be a surprise if they do not fight out the finish. TRADE DISPUTE looks the pick of the trio. An impressive winner at Catterick and Sedgefield already this season, he confirmed his well-being when beating Secret Bay by 2l in a point-to-point at Hutton Rudby ten days ago. Joint Account would have given Coole Abbey more to think about at Musselburgh had he jumped with any fluency. He is likely to be the one who gives Trade Dispute most to do providing he picks his feet up. Red Rebel, another fair pointer, started a warm favourite for his latest race at Bangor (heavy ground) but hit the deck four out when beginning to close on the leaders. He is likely to appreciate the better going. Billy Black cannot boast form comparable to that of the principals but still looks the pick of the remainder.

4.50 SANDBECK MOTORS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,916: 2m) (9 runners)

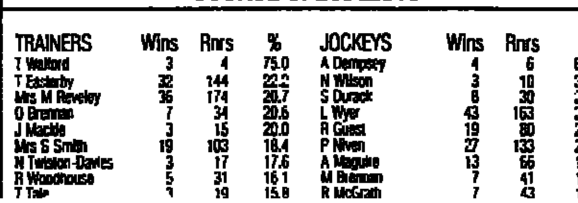
1 1-066U HOUSE OF DREAMS 11 (D,F,G) (J & M Leisure) G M Moore 7-12-0 ... A Maguire 92
2 -654PP LORD DORCET 20 (B,CD,F,G,S) (J Hogg) J Charlton 9-11-10 ... B Storey —
3 21152 FARFIELDS PRINCE 71F (CD,G) G M Moore 7-11-6 ... J Callaghan 94
4 /0-33P NAHRI 66 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Adams) J Mackie 8-11-4 ... R Supple 63
5 30-006 CORAL ISLAND 46 (D,F,G) (F Patten) J FitzGerald 5-11-0 ... P Niven 66
6 3-0560 MARAUD 89 (D,F,G) (D Dyer) M Sowersby 5-10-13 ... M H Naughton (5) 51
7 114430 DONNYBROOK 66 (CD,G,S) (R Smith (York)) R Woodhouse 6-10-10 ... B Harding 105
8 0-5P33 RING OF VISION 48 (D,F) (Harold Bray) J J Quinn 7-10-9 ... C McCormack (3) [illegible]
9 0-0530 MISTER SANDROVITCH 88 (S) (P Sandrovitch) R Fahey 6-10-0 ... L Wyer 66

BETTING: 3-1 Farfields Prince, 4-1 Coral Island, 6-1 Donnybrook, 7-1 House Of Dreams, Lord Dorcet, Ring Of Vision, 8-1 Nahri, 12-1 others.

1998: LEGAL RIGHT 5-11-12 R McGrath (5-1) J J O'Neill 9 ran



CORAL ISLAND has got stuck in the mud this season but, back on a firmish surface, can show his true colours. The selection looked a useful recruit to hurdling when trotting up in juvenile events (on fast ground) at Perth and Sedgefield last season. As a result of his modest efforts in soft ground this term he is able to race off a mark 9lb lower than at the start of the campaign. Maraud is another who will be suited by underfoot conditions although Farfields Prince, game and reliable, may prove a bigger threat — even though he is 8lb higher than when winning over course and distance in December. House Of Dreams and Nahri are hard to enthuse about on what they have achieved lately while Donnybrook and Ring Of Vision look handicapped up to their best. Lord Dorcet, who reverts to timber after losing his way over fences, is best watched.



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
T Walford	3	4	75.0	A Dempsey	4	6	66.7
T Easterby	32	144	22.2	N Wilson	3	10	30.0
Mrs M Reveley	36	174	20.7	S Durack	8	30	26.7
O Brennan	7	34	20.6	L Wyer	43	163	26.4
J Mackie	3	15	20.0	R Guest	19	80	23.8
Mrs S Smith	19	103	18.4	P Niven	27	133	20.3
N Twiston-Davies	3	17	17.6	A Maguire	13	66	19.7
R Woodhouse	5	31	16.1	M Brennan	7	41	17.1
T Tate	3	19	15.8	R McGrath	7	43	16.3

Davis fights to stay with elite

SNOOKER

By Phil Yates

STEVE DAVIS, six times the world champion, improved his chances of reaching a unique milestone by beating Darren Clarke 5-2 in the first round of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Davis, attempting to remain a member of snooker's elite top 16 in the world rankings for an unprecedented twentieth consecutive season, is among a group of players, including Jimmy White, who are in danger of falling out of the top places and who require a spirited finish to the 1998-99 campaign.

When Clarke, the world No 87, compiled breaks of 75 and 46 to lead 2-0, Davis looked to be in danger of suffering a repeat of his miserable defeat by the same opponent at the corresponding stage of the Scottish Open two months ago.

"A bit of panic set in, but I dug myself out of a hole, which is always encouraging," Davis said. "I went on automatic pilot, stopped worrying about the result and the rankings, and just went for it.

"Being in the top 16 unbroken for all those years would be special, I have to admit. That's why I'll be all geared up for the next month, but I don't want to think about the rankings too much."

Dominic Dale, another player in contention for top-16 status, was beaten 5-4 by Michael Judge after leading 4-2, while Fergal O'Brien stayed in the hunt with a 5-4 win over Antony Bolsover, who recorded a break of 136, the highest of the event, in the first frame.

While Davis, at 41 the oldest competitor in the tournament, retains enthusiasm for practice, John Higgins admits he is finding it "boring" at the end of a long season in which he has featured at the business end of the vast majority of events. Higgins has, by his own admission, gone through the motions in preparation. There was, however, no sign of fatigue during a 5-0 whitewash of John Read.

The Scot, who defeated Stephen Hendry 9-8 in the final of last year's British Open, out-scored Read 394-73. "It's difficult to keep going when you've been playing snooker day-in, day-out for ages," he said.

John Parrott overcame the loss of two frames on the black and another on the pink before play was suspended at 4-4 to accommodate the start of the following session. By accounting for the decider with a run of 72, Parrott beat Lee Walker 5-4.

Neal relishes glory of private life

BY KEVIN EASON



MARK LILEY

Neal enjoys his moment of triumph on the winner's podium after his unlikely victory at Donington

FOR a few tantalising seconds yesterday, Matt Neal's grasp on a £250,000 prize was slipping away. That was until the privateer overcame an attack of nerves at his pitstop to take the huge reward for being the first independent driver to win a round of the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship, beating a grid packed with handsomely-funded manufacturer teams.

Through the line of expensive glossy trucks that transported the works-financed cars to Donington Park stood a murky brown motorhome, where the bottled beer flowed last night, celebrating this family victory.

Neal's father, Steve, funds Team Dynamics through his alloy wheel manufacturing business on a budget of about £500,000 a year, a tenth the amount that manufacturers such as Nissan and Ford spend on their cars and drivers. During the week, Neal, 32, is marketing director of the Rimstock wheel business; at the weekends, he is a driver who has failed to attract the attention of a works team after seven years in touring cars.

He got his revenge by beating them all yesterday. Well-wishers, who have watched Neal struggle to overcome the big battalions, gathered around the family caravan awning, anxious to applaud one of the most romantic stories of modern motor racing. In the space of 44 minutes, Neal, from Stourbridge in the West Midlands, transformed himself from plucky privateer to a championship contender — and won the cost of half the team budget.

However, he admitted that his anxiety not to make a silly error almost cost him the race and his cheque. He had led from pole position, building up a substantial lead over James Thompson, in a Honda, and driving his Nissan Primera GT faster than any other machine in the field — a shock for the Nissan works team, which sold him a 1998 car during the winter.

At the halfway stage in the 36-lap feature race, Neal gingerly entered the pits to take on fresh tyres. As he was signalled away, he hit the throttle only to discover that he was still in second gear and stalled. As he pressed the start button to rectify his basic mistake, cars rushed past the pit exit ahead of him.

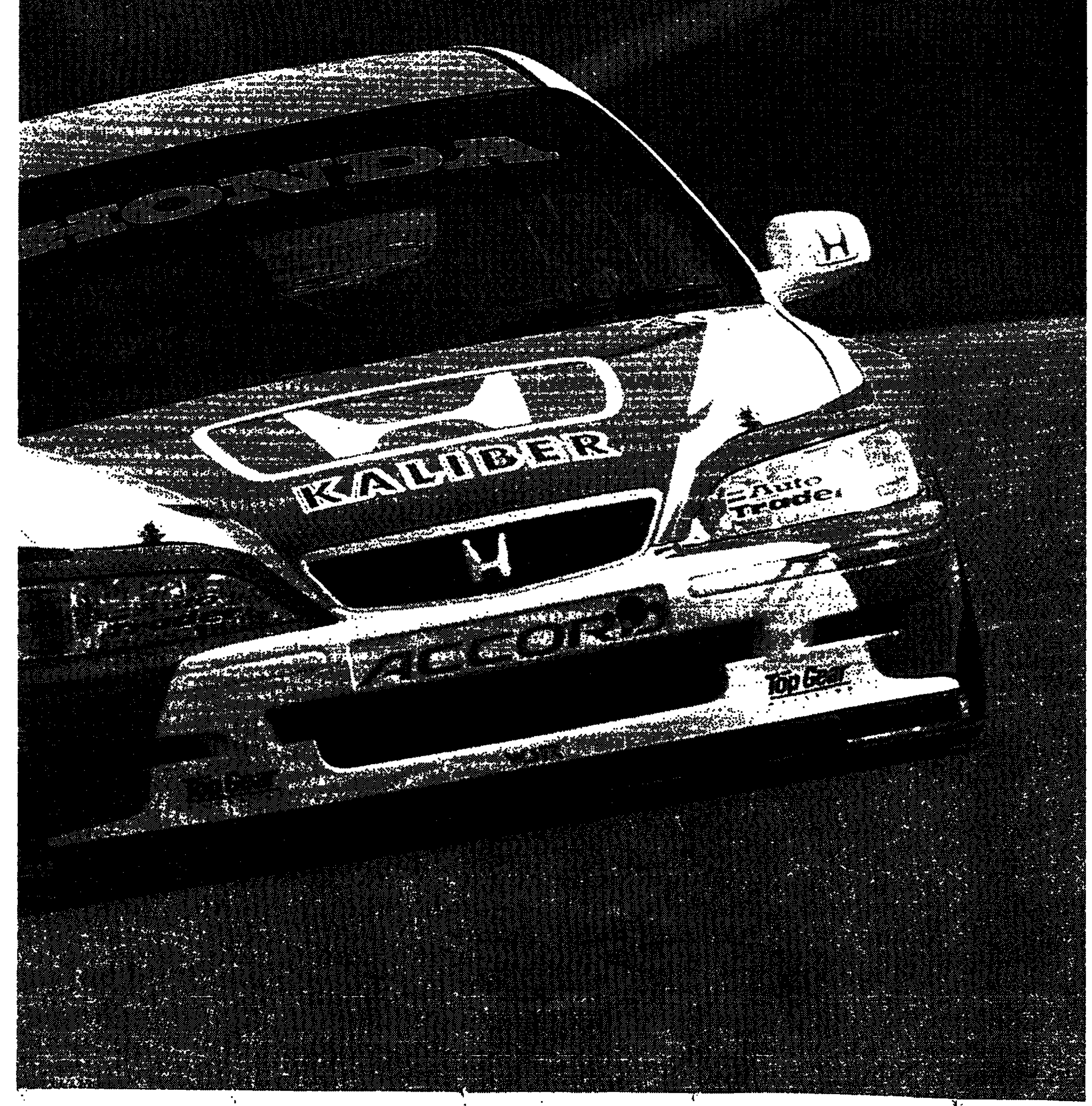
"Maybe it was just nerves," he said. "I always come into the pits in second because it is much more controllable, but I just forgot to get into first and when I hit the throttle, the engine died on me. I thought I had fluffed it and the whole thing was over."

Perhaps that error served to release the tension that had been building all day, when everyone at the first meeting of the new touring cars season realised that Neal had a more than realistic chance of winning the £250,000 put up by Alan Gow, the organiser.

He drove like a man possessed tearing past the Volvo S40 of Rickard Rydell, the 1998 champion, on his way to chase down Thompson. The Yorkshireman had won the first-round sprint and was looking for another victory and a perfect start to his championship campaign, but he recognised that he could not hold off the rampaging Neal.

With eight laps to go, Neal dived down the inside of Thompson at Donington's Old Hairpin. From then, it was clear road all the way to the chequered flag and the end of the race of Neal's life.

With the next session at Silverstone in a fortnight, Neal now has a chance to stake a claim on this championship and, if he wins next time, that cheque will have cleared at the bank and perhaps the bottled beer will be replaced by champagne in the Team Dynamics caravan.



FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 2 Colorado 8

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 85 Charlotte 83; Boston 79 New Jersey 91, Washington 79 Miami 90, Indiana 108 New York 95; Seattle 101 Houston 84; Toronto 97 Philadelphia 82; Chicago 88 Vancouver 87; Cleveland 98 Milwaukee 74, Denver 82 LA Clippers 80

CRICKET

Fourth Test match

West Indies v Australia

ST JOHN'S (third day of five). Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 161 runs ahead of West Indies

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 303 (S R Waugh 72 not out, J L Langer 51; C E L Ambrose 5 for 94).

Second Innings

G S Blewett lbw b Ambrose	7
M J Slater b Walsh	44
J L Langer not out	24
M E Waugh not out	8
Extras (w 1, nb 1)	2
Total (2 wkts)	85

FALL OF WICKET: 1-15, 2-76

BOWLING: Ambrose 8-3-8-1; Walsh 10-3-22-1; Hooper 8 4-1-20-0; Adams 4.2-2-7-0; Collymore 8-0-28-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c M E Waugh b Miller	8
A F G Griffith c Healy b Miller	9
D R E Joseph lbw b Dale	28
*B C Lara c Healy b McGrath	100
C L Hooper run out	47
J C Adams c Healy b Dale	0
†R D Jacobs lbw b MacGill	4
N O Perry b McGrath	6
C E L Ambrose c Ponting b MacGill	0
C D Collymore not out	11
C A Walsh lbw b McGrath	3
Extras (nb 6)	6
Total	222

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-20, 3-136, 4-176, 5-178, 6-192, 7-205, 8-206, 9-213.

BOWLING: McGrath 27.2-9-64-3; Dale 18-7-67-2; Miller 17-5-39-2; MacGill 14-3-52-2.

Umpires: D L Orchard (SA) and S A Bucknor.

GOLF

GEORGIA: BellSouth Classic: Leading final scores (United States unless stated). **270:** D Duval 66, 69, 68, 67. **272:** S Cink 71, 65, 66, 70. **273:** R Sabbatini (SA) 65, 65, 73, 70; J Huston 71, 65, 67, 70. **274:** F Langham 69, 67, 68, 70, M Weir (Can) 69, 65, 68, 72. **275:** G Day 68, 67, 72, 68, D Love 69, 69, 69, 68, P Mickelson 69, 71, 64, 71. **Other British scores: 287:** I Woosnam 70, 69, 73, 75, N Faldo 69, 73, 73, 72. **289:** C Montgomerie 72, 68, 73, 76

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Division A ('s-Hertogenbosch, Holland) **Classification matches:** Slavia Praha 0 Ritm Grodno 1, Moskva Pravda 0 Kolos Borispol 4. **Bronze medal:** Slough 2 Edinburgh Ladies 0. **Final:** Den Bosch 2 Rot Weiss Cologne 2 (Rot Weiss won 3-1 after penalty strokes)

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Cardiff 2 Nottingham 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Dallas 0 Detroit 3, New Jersey 4 NY Rangers 1

MOTOR SPORT

DONINGTON: Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship: First round (18 laps, 35.28m): 1, J Thompson (GB, Honda Accord) 21min 51.403sec; 2, A Menu (Switz, Ford Mondeo) at 2.094sec; 3, J Plato (GB, Renault Laguna) 4.051; 4, D Leslie (GB, Nissan Primera) 4.503; 5, M Neal (GB, Nissan Primera) 4.662; 6, Y Muller (Fr, Vauxhall Vectra) 5.331. **Second round** (36 laps, 70.56m): 1, Neal 44min 02.088sec; 2, Thompson at 5.775sec; 3, Plato 7.324; 4, Cleland 12.933; 5, Radermecker 16.796; 6, JC Boullion (Fr, Renault Laguna) 17.004. **Leading championship positions:** 1, Thompson 29pts; 2, Neal 23; 3, Plato 20

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Hull 21 Sheffield 23

Hull Sharks: Tries: Campbell, Hallas, Lester. **Goals:** Prescott 4. **Dropped goal:** Roberts. **Sheffield Eagles: Tries:** Lovell 2, Sodje 2. **Goals:** Aston 3. **Dropped goal:** Aston. **Att:** 4,500

Leeds 38 London 12

Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Lawford 2, Cummins, Farrell, Golden, Harris, Rivett. **Goals:** Harris 5. **London Broncos: Tries:** Hammond, Millard. **Goals:** Warton 2. **Att:** 12,665

St Helens 58 Bradford 14

St Helens: Tries: Sullivan 3, Stewart 2, Jonkers, Martyn, Sculthorpe, Tuilagi. **Goals:** Martyn 11. **Bradford Bulls: Tries:** Dwyer, Harmon. **Goals:** Deacon 3. **Att:** 15,042

Wakefield 22 Wigan 52

Wakefield Trinity: Tries: Hodgson 2, N Law, Talbot. **Goals:** Talbot 3. **Wigan Warriors: Tries:** P Johnson 3, Betts, Cassidy, Connolly, Davies, Gilmour, Robinson. **Goals:** Farrell 8. **Att:** 6,104

Warrington 23 Gateshead 18

Warrington Town: Tries: Roach 2, Forster, Hunte, Wainwright. **Goal:** Briers. **Dropped goal:** Briers. **Gateshead: Tries:** Daylight, Felsch, Marden. **Goals:** Herron 3. **Att:** 4,919

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	4	4	0	0	136	60	8
Warrington	4	4	0	0	84	68	8
Wigan	4	3	0	1	148	54	6
London	4	3	0	1	74	88	6
Bradford	4	3	0	1	58	81	6
Leeds	4	2	0	2	88	70	4
Castleford	3	2	0	1	40	39	[illegible]
Sheffield	4	2	0	2	81	93	[illegible]
Halifax	3	1	0	2	41	44	[illegible]
Gateshead	4	1	0	3	78	87	[illegible]
Wakefield	4	1	0	3	60	98	[illegible]
Huddersfield	3	0	0	3	60	73	0
Salford	3	0	0	3	44	78	0
Hull	4	0	0	4	40	101	0

Northern Ford Premiership

Barrow 21 Keighley 22

Barrow Braves: Tries: Holt 2, Manihera. **Goals:** Holt 4. **Dropped goal:** Holt. **Keighley Cougars: Tries:** Antonik, Foster, Ramshaw, Schick. **Goals:** Wood 3. **Att:** 1,579

Dewsbury 25 Hull K R 14

Dewsbury Rams: Tries: Agar, Evans, Flynn, Pearce. **Goals:** Eaton 4. **Dropped goal:** Agar. **Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries:** Fletcher, Kitching, R Smith. **Goal:** Charles. **Att:** 1,732

Whitehaven 21 Batley 8

Whitehaven Warriors: Tries: Chambers, Kitchin, Morton. **Goals:** Kitchin 4. **Dropped goal:** Joe. **Batley Bulldogs: Tries:** Bargate, Clarke. **Att:** 606

Widnes 40 Lancashire Lynx 4

Widnes Vikings: Tries: Munro 2, D Myler 2, Cassidy, Harris, Percival. **Goals:** Hewitt 6. **Lancashire Lynx: Try:** Parsley. **Att:** 3,064.

York 16 Hunslet 6

York: Tries: Cain, Edwards. **Goals:** Benn 4. **Hunslet Hawks: Try:** Tawhai. **Goal:** Fletcher. **Att:** 1,204

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	8	6	1	1	123	85	13
Dewsbury	8	6	0	2	230	157	12
Widnes	8	6	0	2	184	130	12
Hunslet	8	5	0	3	188	102	10
Leigh	7	5	0	2	178	146	10
York	8	4	1	3	136	119	9
Featherstone	6	4	0	2	146	106	8
Batley	8	3	1	4	139	133	7
Workington	7	3	1	3	144	195	7
Barrow	7	3	0	4	189	162	6
Swinton	7	3	0	4	125	124	6
Whitehaven	8	3	0	5	141	140	6
Keighley	7	3	0	4	140	144	6
Lancashire L	8	3	0	5	118	332	6
Oldham	6	2	1	3	79	147	5
Bramley	7	2	0	5	78	107	4
Doncaster	8	1	1	6	122	206	3
Rochdale	6	1	0	5	108	143	2

RUGBY UNION

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North and Midlands League: First division: Cumbria 16 Notts, Lincs and Derby 30. **Second division:** Cheshire 23 Lancashire 7. **South League: First division:** Gloucestershire 34 Surrey 24. **Second division:** Berkshire 12 Sussex 24. **Fourth division:** Buckinghamshire 8 Somerset 44

SAILING

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: RYA National Championships: 420 class: Men (after two races): 1, R Watson and M Ellis 9pts; 2, B Field and J Holmes 10; 3, N Baker and J Clifton 10; 4, I Martin and C Martin 11; 5, C Hepplewhite and P Marshall 13; 6, M Gill and M Harrison 18. **Women:** 1, H Brown and J Scott 15; 2, C Bassadone and H Mayhew 19; 3, N Barnes and J Marshall 26; 4, V Rawlinson and E Rawlinson 27; 5, S Blair and T Smith 34; 6, L F Sykes and S Richmond 41. **Laser Radial men** (after two races): 1, P Griffiths 2; 2, G Blake 8; 3, T Hulse 8; 4, S Matley-Jones 12; 5, L Chapman 12; 6, J Dart 13. **Women:** 1, B Holt 33; 2, K Archer 39; 3, B Lygoe 56; 4, J Kneale 92; 5, N Lloyd 95; 6, L Driscoll 97

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Open: First round: A Davies (Wales) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-2; D Finbow (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-2; B Jones (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-3; J Higgins (Sco) bt J Read (Eng) 5-0; G Murphy (N Ire) bt M Geudens (Bel) 5-1; G Wilkinson (Eng) bt I Brumby (Eng) 5-4; J Parrott (Eng) bt L Walker (Wales) 5-4

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 10

Coupon no, game, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 A Villa v South'pton 1
2 Leicester v West Ham X
3 Middlesbro v Charlton 2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

4 Bradford v Portsmouth 1
5 Bristol C v Grimsby 1
6 Crewe v Port Vale 1
7 Oxford v Bury 1
8 QPR v West Brom 1
9 Swindon v Birm'ham 2
10 Watford v Bolton 1
11 Wolves v Crystal P 1

SECOND DIVISION

12 Blackpool v Reading 2
13 Colchester v Walsall X
14 Fulham v Wigan 1
15 Macclesf'ld v Preston 2
16 Man City v Lincoln 1
17 North'pton v Luton 2
18 Notts Co v Chest'field 1
19 Oldham v Burnley 2
20 Stoke v Bristol R 1
21 Wrexham v Wycombe 2
22 York v Millwall 2

THIRD DIVISION

23 Barnet v Scarboro 1
24 Camb'ge v Halifax 1
25 Carlisle v Peterboro X
26 Darlington v Torquay 1
27 Hartlepool v Chester 1
28 Hull v Exeter 1
29 Leyton O v Cardiff 2
30 Mansfield v Southend X
31 Plymouth v Brighton 1
32 Rochdale v Rotherhm 2
33 Scunthorpe v Brentfd X

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

34 Kilmarnock v Aberdeen 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

35 Raith v Hibernian 2

SECOND DIVISION

36 Alloa v Arbroath X
37 Forfar v Q of South X
38 Inverness CT v Stirling 1
39 Livingston v Clyde 1
40 Partick v East Fife X

THIRD DIVISION

41 Brechin v Albion R X
42 Cowdnbth v Dumbrton 2
43 E Stirling v Berwick 1
44 Queen's P v Montrose 1

CONFERENCE

45 Leek v Hayes 2
46 Morec'be v Kid'mster X

RYMAN LEAGUE

47 Aylesbury v Sutton U X
48 Borehm W v Aldershot 1
49 Enfield v Slough

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Leicester, Colchester, Carlisle, Mansfield, Scunthorpe, Alloa, Partick, Brechin, Morecambe, Aylesbury

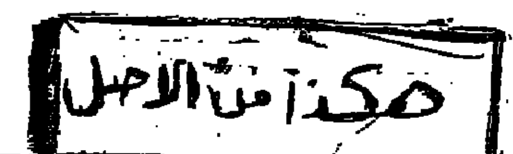
BEST DRAWS: Leicester, Colchester, Carlisle, Scunthorpe, Partick

AWAYS: Birmingham, Preston, Luton, Rotherham, Hibernian.

HOMES: Bradford City, Bristol City, Wolves, Fulham, Manchester City, Cambridge, Darlington, Plymouth, Kilmarnock.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Bristol City, Wolves, Cambridge, Darlington, Plymouth. **Aways:** Preston, Luton, Rotherham. **Draws:** Colchester, Carlisle, Scunthorpe.

Vince Wright





Patrik Berger, of Liverpool, tumbles beneath the challenge of Olivier Dacourt, of Everton, at Anfield on Saturday. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Berger finally comes good to satisfy hunger for points

This week's player lists (right) are based on the games played on Easter Saturday only. Points gained in games played yesterday and tonight will be included in next week's lists, along with next weekend's FA Carling Premiership programme.

Saturday's games brought a welcome reward for a member of one of society's permanently impoverished groups. Robin Newnham of Marcham, Oxfordshire, a first-year university student, is the winner of our weekly prize, in this case £1,000, a roll-over in the absence of any Premiership games last week.

"Money always comes in handy for students," he said. He also gets £100 worth of sports equipment.

Mr Newnham is studying History at Lincoln College, Oxford, and was pleased to hear the news of his win after a slightly disappointing weekend; he went to watch the Boat Race, which Oxford lost, while his favourite football team, Tottenham Hotspur, also came second, at home to Leicester City, who took revenge for their defeat in the Worthington Cup final with a 2-0 victory at White Hart Lane.

Yet even that cloud had a silver lining, as the performance of Matt Elliott, the Leicester defender and Scotland international, who scored and helped his team to a clean sheet, was worth a total of six points. "I had mixed feelings about that," Mr Newnham admitted.



The other top points-scorer in the team, Mindbenders, was Patrik Berger, of Liverpool, with a goal and an assist against Everton in the Merseyside derby, worth a total of five. "He didn't do too well at the beginning, but he's in good form now," Mr Newnham said.

It capped a satisfying few days for Berger, who was in the Czech Republic side that won in Scotland last Wednesday; Matt Elliott, coincidentally, also played in that game, scoring an unfortunate own goal in the 2-1 defeat.

In a remarkably consistent team performance, seven of Mr Newnham's selection scored three points each: Mark Bosnich, Andy Impey, Nigel Winterburn and Frank Leboeuf were involved in shut-outs, while David Beckham, Paulo Wanchope and Jason Euell scored goals, Euell and Beckham in the same match.

The only two non-contributors to the total of 32 points were Steve Stone and Paul Merson of Aston Villa.

☐ Since no ON-Target numbers were printed on this page last week, the winner of this week's competition can look forward to a roll-over prize of £1,000. So if your team total based on this week's player lists comes to either 1, 7 or 17, follow the instructions below to find out if you are a winner.

☐ Two weeks ago, in our Fantasy Quiz on this page, we asked you what four particular players had in common. Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Mark Hughes (Southampton), Paul Ince (Liverpool) and Gary Pallister (Middlesbrough) all know how it feels to win the FA Carling Premiership, even if none of them seem to have much chance of repeating the feat with their current clubs.

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

Time to reap the rewards of patience

With less than a fifth of the season remaining, managers in *The Times* Fantasy League can be crippled by player injuries and suspensions and now is the time that those who have some transfers saved for a rainy day can reap the rewards.

With the Premiership transfer deadline day passing without any major moves, Fantasy League managers are wise in the knowledge that the only possible additions to the player list are those who have spent much of the season in the reserves. This ensures that potential purchasers should keep an eagle eye on players who have most opportunities to score some points.

After next weekend, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham will have only played 31 of their 38 fixtures, whereas many Premiership sides will have played 33.

A three-match ban for a player at this stage of the season can prove very costly indeed for Fantasy League managers.

TRANSFER LINE
Want to make one of your 12 transfers? Call
0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute
Ex UK calls charged at national rates

Those owning Robbie Fowler face an anxious wait regarding the news of his disciplinary hearing, where he is virtually guaranteed a penalty. A massive fine will not concern Fantasy League managers, but a hefty ban will hit them hard.

However, a two-match ban will still mean that he has the same amount of opportunities to score as Bergkamp, Anelka and Dublin because of the fact that his team have failed to play all their scheduled fixtures so far.

The list of players that have been told their season is over is growing. Ramon Vega is the latest to hear those dreaded words and joins the list including Pierluigi Casiraghi, Robert Molenaar, Martin Hiden and Jeff Kenna who will all have to wait until next season before they kick a ball in vain again.

MATT SIMS

FANTASY LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	368
2	Mark Coles	Joe Public	349
2	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	349
4	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	347
4	James Kerr	Serious Squad	347
6	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	345
7	Michael Matejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	343
8	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	341
9	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	340
10	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan Iii	338
11	David Young	Dave 10	336
11	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	336
11	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	336
14	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	334
15	Jason Wynne	Taffys Terrors	333
15	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	333
15	Thomas Bailey	Rural Raiders	333
18	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	332
19	Alan Featherstone	Larlarsdipsyteam	331
19	Raymond George	Razor D	331
21	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	330
21	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	330
21	Tom Summers	Ganichou	330
24	David Tilley	Tilley FC	329
24	Lucy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football	329
24	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bac	329
24	Stephen Beales	Croft Rangers	329
28	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	328
28	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	328
28	David Mead	In The City	328
31	C Sharpe	Sunfish Stars	327
31	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	327
31	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?	327
31	Michael Scaife	Allidoiswash&go	327
35	Steven Walls	Team Stevo	326
35	Sarosh Daruwala	Scorch	326
35	Geoff Clarke	Clarkies Kickers	326
35	John Miner	Melodymaker	326
35	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys	326
40	Peter Coltman	Just A Bods Team	325
40	Jo Tinning-Clowes	The Future's Red	325
42	Donald Murray	Murrays Marvels	324
42	Red Petrovic	Roddys Rovers	324
44	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard	323
44	Allan Purdy	Als Bandits	323
44	John Humphreys	Academicals	323
44	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	323
44	Lionel Payne	Ukpayneandsonfc1	323
44	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	323
44	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 15	323

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS

1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	347
2	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	334
3	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	330
3	Tom Summers	Ganichou	330
5	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	328
6	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	322
6	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	322
8	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	318
9	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	315

Are you on target to win £1,000?

Congratulations to Ms P Kelly, of London EC1, the main winner of ON-Target from two weeks ago.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned Fifa 99 game. Every week you could win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: Fifa 99 for the PlayStation; Fifa 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

If you already have a team in the main game, you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. You can enter at any time and there are no limits to how many teams you can enter.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

The winners from two weeks ago are: **Ms P Kelly** of London EC1 (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); **Gary Wilcox** of Midsomer Norton; **Brian Mersham** of Leigh-on-Sea; **Mr V Rollsout** of Rednal and **Ms A Smith** of Hampton-in Arden (EA Sports Packs); **Ms P Snow** of New Barnet; **Mr S Collins** of Littlehampton; **Gary Wayneman** of Chislehurst; **Neil Handy** of London NW6; **Alan Benidict** of Elstree; **Mr D Hutchinson** of Larkhall; **David Hughes** of Kings Walden; **John Black** of Liverpool L25; **Richard Greenales** of Chorley and **Ms P Kenny** of London NW10 (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...
1, 7 or 17
points?
Check your total, then ring
0870 901 4270
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4270)
Calls charged at national rates

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

102	D Seaman	ARS	3	40	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	3	12	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	3	-4	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	0	10	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	1	32	3.2
145	K Hitchcock	CHE	1	1	2.6
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-4	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	-3	1	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	6	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	-2	15	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	20	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	3	8	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	1	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	-1	2	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	4	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	3	14	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	-2	6	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	-2	1	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	-1	4	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	3	1	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-6	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	-1	14	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	3	11	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	0	-3	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

203	R Garde	ARS	0	14	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	3	47	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	3	35	4.2
260	D Grondin	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	0	12	3.7
209	A Wright	AST	3	14	3.7
804	M Delaney	AV	0	0	2.8
211	G Croft	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	3	8	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	-2	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	0	6	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	0	14	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	0	8	2.5
243	A Barness	CHA	0	-2	2.5
803	P Konchesky	CHA	0	3	2.5
210	A Ferrer	CHE	3	28	3.7
212	G Le Saux	CHE	3	22	4.0
215	C Babayaro	CHE	0	32	3.5
218	F Sinclair	CHE	3	9	3.3
217	M Hall	COV	0	0	2.7
219	R Nilsson	COV	0	4	2.9
231	D Burrows	COV	0	-9	2.9
247	I Brightwell	COV	0	0	2.8
267	M Edworthy	COV	0	-2	2.9
223	S Schnoor	DER	-3	14	2.8
287	S Elliott	DER	0	0	2.6
295	T Dorigo	DER	-3	10	2.8
805	V Borbokis	DER	-3	-4	2.8
249	J O'Kane	EVE	0	0	2.9
256	T Thomas	EVE	0	0	2.7
258	M Ball	EVE	-2	30	2.8
271	A Cleland	EVE	0	20	2.8
272	T Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
288	M Ward	EVE	0	-3	3.0
802	A Farley	EVE	0	-1	2.6
214	D Granville	LEE	0	5	3.5
224	I Harte	LEE	5	40	3.4
225	D Robertson	LEE	0	0	3.3
226	G Kelly	LEE	0	0	3.9
227	L Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.6
235	R Ullathorne	LEI	3	11	3.0
237	R Savage	LEI	3	4	3.3
238	S Guppy	LEI	5	33	3.6
228	J McAteer	LIV	3	3	4.2
230	R Jones	LIV	0	0	3.6
232	S Bjornebye	LIV	0	6	3.8
250	V Heggem	LIV	0	13	3.9
236	D Irwin	MAN	0	24	4.3
283	J Curtis	MAN	0	-1	3.5
284	P Neville	MAN	0	12	4.3
285	G Neville	MAN	0	23	4.5
294	W Brown	MAN	0	2	3.8
252	C Fleming	MID	0	9	3.0
253	V Kinder	MID	0	3	3.0
254	C Harrison	MID	3	3	2.8
255	D Gordon	MID	3	25	3.2
259	G Lombardi	MID	0	0	2.9
266	R Stockdale	MID	3	15	2.8
244	N Solano	NEW	2	28	3.3
246	A Griffin	NEW	-2	-1	3.2
273	S Watson	NEW	3	13	3.4
274	W Barton	NEW	0	9	3.4
276	L Charvet	NEW	-2	6	3.3
280	C Serrant	NEW	0	-1	3.2
281	A Pistone	NEW	0	-3	3.5
298	D Domi	NEW	-2	-8	3.3
290	D Lyttle	NOT	0	-5	2.9
291	A Rogers	NOT	1	-8	3.0
292	T Bonalair	NOT	-2	-9	3.1
293	M Louis-Jean	NOT	0	0	2.7
801	S Stensaas	NOT	-1	4	2.7
202	E Barrett	SHE	0	-1	2.8
268	A Hinchcliffe	SHE	0	27	3.2
269	J Cobian	SHE	0	1	2.8
279	I Nolan	SHE	0	0	2.8
289	L Briscoe	SHE	-1	5	2.6
239	J Beresford	SOU	0	0	2.8
263	J Dodd	SOU	3	9	2.8
286	P Warner	SOU	0	-4	2.5
297	P Colleter	SOU	3	3	2.6
251	C Wilson	TOT	0	0	3.0
264	S Carr	TOT	-1	23	3.1
265	P Tramezzani	TOT	0	-2	3.2
270	J Edinburgh	TOT	-1	6	2.9
296	M Taricco	TOT	0	12	3.3
206	S Potts	WES	3	4	3.0
233	S Lazaridis	WES	0	0	3.2
234	A Impey	WES	3	13	3.1
299	S Minto	WES	3	7	3.1
275	D Jupp	WIM	0	-2	2.8
277	B Thatcher	WIM	0	0	2.9
278	A Kimble	WIM	0	1	2.9
282	K Cunningham	WIM	0	1	3.0

CENTRE BACKS

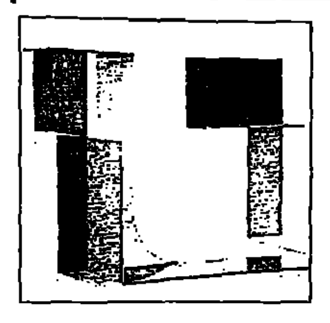
305	S Bould	ARS	0	12	3.8
307	T Adams	ARS	3	39	4.4
322	M Keown	ARS	3	54	4.1
337	G Grimandi	ARS	0	8	3.6
347	M Upson	ARS	0	1	3.4
301	U Ehiogu	AST	0	24	3.7
303	G Southgate	AST	3	15	3.6
304	R Scimeca	AST	0	5	3.3
329	G Barry	AST	0	7	3.1
353	S Peron	BLA	0	2	3.3
354	D Peacock	BLA	3	1	3.3
355	S Henchoz	BLA	3	0	3.4
374	M Broomes	BLA	0	-1	2.8
906	M Taylor	BLA	0	0	2.6
308	R Rufus	CHA	0	-7	2.7
309	E Youds	CHA	0	-4	2.6
356	B Lambourde	CHE	0	6	3.4
365	M Desailly	CHE	3	28	3.8
366	M Duberry	CHE	0	14	3.5
370	A Myers	CHE	0	0	3.3
381	F Leboeuf	CHE	3	44	4.2
357	G Breen	COV	0	0	3.0
384	P Williams	COV	0	4	2.9
387	R Shaw	COV	0	0	2.8
388	L Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
903	M Konjic	COV	0	-4	2.7
311	J Laursen	DER	-3	6	2.9
312	I Stimac	DER	0	6	3.0
313	R Delap	DER	0	18	2.7
314	HA Carbonari	DER	-3	14	3.1
326	C Dailly	DER	0	-1	3.0
306	S Bilic	EVE	0	2	3.1
323	D Unsworth	EVE	-2	21	3.1
324	D Watson	EVE	-2	12	2.9
325	C Tiler	EVE	0	12	3.0
327	C Short	EVE	-2	3	2.9
328	M Materazzi	EVE	-1	11	3.0
348	R Dunne	EVE	0	13	2.7
904	D Weir	EVE	0	-3	2.8
330	L Radebe	LEE	0	24	3.5
331	M Hiden	LEE	0	14	3.4
332	J Woodgate	LEE	2	15	3.2
380	D Wetherall	LEE	0	8	3.6
396	R Molenaar	LEE	0	20	3.4
334	G Taggart	LEI	0	8	3.2
335	P Kaamark	LEI	0	-4	3.3
336	S Walsh	LEI	0	17	3.3
338	M Elliott	LEI	6	28	3.9
389	S Prior	LEI	-3	11	3.1
302	S Staunton	LIV	-1	3	4.1
320	P Babb	LIV	0	2	3.7
375	D Matteo	LIV	-1	1	3.6
376	F Kippe	LIV	0	0	3.4
399	BT Kvarme	LIV	0	-1	3.5
902	R Song	LIV	-1	-4	3.8
321	H Berg	MAN	0	7	3.9
368	D May	MAN	0	0	3.9
382	J Stam	MAN	0	19	4.5
383	R Johnsen	MAN	0	30	4.1
339	G Pallister	MID	3	10	3.2
343	G Festa	MID	0	14	3.1
344	S Vickers	MID	0	9	3.0
340	S Pearce	NEW	0	3	3.2
341	S Howey	NEW	0	1	3.3
342	N Dabizas	NEW	-2	6	3.4
345	A Hughes	NEW	0	-3	3.0
361	P Albert	NEW	0	4	3.5
349	C Edwards	NOT	-2	-2	2.6
350	C Cooper	NOT	3	12	3.2
351	S Chettle	NOT	-2	-14	3.0
352	JO Hjelde	NOT	0	-15	2.9
371	J Mattsson	NOT	0	-9	2.8
901	C Doig	NOT	0	-3	2.6
905	R Gough	NOT	-2	-2	2.7
358	P Atherton	SHE	-1	16	2.9
360	D Walker	SHE	0	13	2.8
362	D Stefanovic	SHE	0	2	2.7
364	J Newsome	SHE	0	-1	2.8
317	K Monkou	SOU	3	3	2.7
385	F Benali	SOU	0	-5	2.7
386	R Dryden	SOU	0	3	2.5
391	C Lundekvam	SOU	3	-1	2.6
394	S Marshall	SOU	0	-5	2.7
395	S Hiley	SOU	3	-5	2.5
397	G Monk	SOU	0	-6	2.5
346	C Calderwood	TOT	3	14	3.1
373	J Scales	TOT	0	6	3.0
377	L Young	TOT	-1	4	2.7
378	S Campbell	TOT	-1	34	3.3
396	R Vega	TOT	0	15	3.4
315	J Dicks	WES	0	3	3.3
319	I Pearce	WES	3	18	3.1
363	R Hall	WES	0	0	2.9
367	J Margas	WES	0	-6	3.2
369	N Ruddock	WES	3	12	3.0
393	R Ferdinand	WES	0	16	3.2
372	C Perry	WIM	0	0	3.1
390	B McAllister	WIM	0	0	2.8
392	D Blackwell	WIM	0	-1	2.9

MIDFIELDERS

405	E Petit	ARS	0	10	4.4
406	M Overmars	ARS	0	30	5.6
416	R Parlour	ARS	0	25	4.0
420	P Vieira	ARS	0	5	4.1
424	F Ljungberg	ARS	0	3	5.5
425	S Hughes	ARS	0	7	3.5
407	M Draper	AST	0	0	3.7
409	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	9	4.5
411	F Ferraresi	AST	0	0	3.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	16	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	0	11	3.8
415	B McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	J Wilcox	BLA	0	9	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	4	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	3.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	0	17	4.1
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	9	3.1
426	O Kenda	BLA	0	0	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	7	3.1
575	G Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
499	S Parker	CHA	0	2	3.0
501	K Jones	CHA	0	5	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	8	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	7	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	0	8	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
429	J Morris	CHE	0	7	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	3	14	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	0	14	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	0	14	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	25	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	6	3.8
466	G McAllister	COV	3	10	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	7	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	3	29	4.4
592	TE Soltvedt	COV	0	10	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	0	15	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	0	17	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	0	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	2	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	3	14	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	5	3.7
479	L Bohinen	DER	0	4	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	T Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	J Oster	EVE	0	0	3.4
448	N Barmby	EVE	0	11	4.8
449	O Dacourt	EVE	3	6	3.6
450	J Collins	EVE	0	3	4.6
570	D Hutchison	EVE	0	17	4.0
457	M Jones	LEE	0	0	3.0
458	W Korsten	LEE	0	6	3.5
459	H Kewell	LEE	0	36	4.4
466	L Bowyer	LEE	0	23	3.9
480	AI Haaland	LEE	0	2	3.6
481	B Ribeiro	LEE	0	3	3.8
482	G Halle	LEE	0	6	3.3
522	D Hopkin	LEE	0	19	3.7
532	S McPhail	LEE	0	4	3.1
452	N Lennon	LEI	0	7	3.5
453	S Campbell	LEI	0	0	3.1
454	G Parker	LEI	0	0	3.6
460	M Izzet	LEI	0	13	3.8
565	T Zagorakis	LEI	0	7	3.4
412	J Carragher	LIV	0	8	3.3
467	J Redknapp	LIV	0	20	4.2
468	S McManaman	LIV	2	14	5.5
469	P Berger	LIV	5	25	4.4
470	D Thompson	LIV	0	3	3.2
472	S Gerrard	LIV	0	0	3.1
475	JM Ferri	LIV	0	0	3.9
487	D Murphy	LIV	0	0	3.7
490	P Ince	LIV	2	17	4.5
529	O Leonhardsen	LIV	0	0	4.3
483	J Blomqvist	MAN	0	9	5.0
484	N Butt	MAN	0	14	4.1
485	R Giggs	MAN	0	17	5.6
486	P Scholes	MAN	0	31	5.5
491	J Cruyff	MAN	0	8	3.8
492	D Beckham	MAN	3	35	5.9
509	R Keane	MAN	0	6	4.4
510	N Maddison	MID	0	0	3.1
511	A Townsend	MID	0	7	3.6
512	R Mustoe	MID	0	8	3.4
514	P Gascoigne	MID	0	15	4.5
515	P Merson	MID	0	17	4.7
516	A Moore	MID	0	0	3.5
517	P Stamp	MID	0	8	3.4
533	M Summerbell	MID	0	0	3.0
566	K O'Neill	MID	0	0	3.9
461	G Georgiadis	NEW	0	0	3.9
462	D Batty	NEW	0	0	3.7
463	S Glass	NEW	0	17	3.5
464	G Speed	NEW	6	12	4.3
473	J Barnes	NEW	0	0	3.6
478	S Maric	NEW	2	2	4.4
488	P Dalglish	NEW	0	3	3.8
489	K Gillespie	NEW	0	7	4.3
493	G Brady	NEW	0	0	3.3
494	D Hamilton	NEW	0	0	3.3
495	T Ketsbaia	NEW	5	22	3.8
496	R Lee	NEW	0	4	4.2
497	D Hamann	NEW	0	11	3.9
518	N Quashie	NOT	0	2	3.8
519	G Hodges	NOT	0	0	3.3
520	C Bart-Williams	NOT	0	5	3.6
521	S Gemmill	NOT	0	2	3.5
524	G Thomas	NOT	0	0	3.5
525	A Johnson	NOT	0	6	3.7
526	S Stone	NOT	0	7	4.0
527	I Woan	NOT	0	0	3.8
530	A Gray	NOT	0	0	3.4
545	H Porfirio	NOT	0	0	3.6
550	J Harkes	NOT	0	0	3.1
537	N Alexandersson	SHE	0	17	3.5
538	P Rudi	SHE	3	20	3.6
539	G Whittingham	SHE	0	0	3.7
546	S Oakes	SHE	0	0	3.0
547	W Jonk	SHE	0	14	4.3
548	J Magilton	SHE	0	0	3.1
549	D Sonner	SHE	0	8	3.2
562	B Carbone	SHE	2	30	4.7
597	E Thome	SHE	0	7	3.2
500	S Ripley	SOU	0	2	3.9
538	C Palmer	SOU	0	2	3.2
541	D Howells	SOU	0	3	3.2
542	M Le Tissier	SOU	0	27	6.0
543	W Bridge	SOU	0	0	3.0
544	K Gibbens	SOU	0	0	3.0
556	C Marsden	SOU	0	0	3.3
557	M Oakley	SOU	0	12	3.1
558	D Hughes	SOU	0	0	3.1
498	D Ginola	TOT	0	18	4.8
503	R Fox	TOT	0	8	4.1
523	A Sinton	TOT	0	0	3.4
551	S Clemence	TOT	0	0	3.2
552	S Freund	TOT	0	0	3.9
553	A Nielsen	TOT	0	13	3.7
554	J Dominguez	TOT	0	5	3.5
555	D Anderton	TOT	0	21	4.6
568	M Saib	TOT	0	0	3.6
436	J Moncur	WES	0	0	3.4
561	E Berkovic	WES	0	20	4.8
573	MV Foe	WES	0	2	3.6
574	J Cole	WES	0	0	3.5
576	T Sinclair	WES	0	14	5.1
577	S Lomas	WES	0	5	3.3
578	F Lampard	WES	0	22	3.7
579	M Keller	WES	0	11	3.9
471	M Kennedy	WIM	0	2	3.8
559	R Earle	WIM	0	14	4.1
560	A Roberts	WIM	0	8	3.3
563	N Ardley	WIM	0	2	3.4
580	M Hughes	WIM	0	13	3.5
585	G Ainsworth	WIM	0	0	3.8
586	C Hughes	WIM	0	0	3.3
587	P Fear	WIM	0	0	3.0

FORWARDS

601	L Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	N Anelka	ARS	0	47	8.0
606	D Bergkamp	ARS	0	50	9.1
617	N Kanu	ARS	0	5	7.7
623	C Wreh	ARS	0	0	5.8
624	K Diawara	ARS	0	0	6.4
645	D Yorke	AST	0	74	8.3
646	J Joachim	AST	0	31	6.2
651	D Vassell	AST	0	0	5.4
652	S Collymore	AST	0	7	8.0
647	C Sutton	BLA	0	15	8.4
648	N Blake	BLA	0	9	6.7
691	M Dahlin	BLA	0	4	6.4
692	A Ward	BLA	0	14	6.9
693	K Gallacher	BLA	0	9	7.5
695	M Jansen	BLA	0	11	6.4
698	K Davies	BLA	0	7	7.4
604	C Mendonca	CHA	0	14	6.5
605	M Bright	CHA	0	3	5.6
607	S Jones	CHA	0	5	5.0
608	A Hunt	CHA	0	22	5.5
616	M Pringle	CHA	0	9	5.2
709	G Stuart	CHA	0	0	6.0
636	PL Casiraghi	CHE	0	5	7.6
637	TA Flo	CHE	0	35	7.2
639	G Vialli	CHE	0	4	6.6
642	M Forssell	CHE	0	3	5.9
679	G Zola	CHE	0	38	7.4
680	D Huckerby	COV	4	31	7.2
683	D Dublin	COV	0	48	7.9
686	J Aloisi	COV	0	16	6.4
612	D Sturridge	DER	2	24	6.6
625	D Burton	DER	3	27	5.3
694	P Wanchope	DER	3	37	6.8
698	M Christie	DER	0	0	5.0
628	D Cadamarteri	EVE	0	16	5.3
631	K Campbell	EVE	2	2	6.3
675	I Bakayoko	EVE	0	12	6.7
677	F Jeffers	EVE	3	10	5.1
689	M Branch	EVE	0	0	5.2
702	D Ferguson	EVE	0	18	7.5
661	C Wijnhard	LEE	0	10	6.8
662	JF Hasselbaink	LEE	3	66	8.1
671	A Smith	LEE	3	24	5.1
621	S Wilson	LEI	0	0	5.0
622	E Heskey	LEI	2	21	6.8
626	T Cottee	LEI	3	20	5.4
656	A Gunnlaugsson	LEI	0	0	6.1
657	I Marshall	LEI	0	0	5.7
669	G Fenton	LEI	0	0	6.2
618	KH Riedle	LIV	0	17	7.7
619	S Dundee	LIV	0	0	7.0
620	R Fowler	LIV	6	54	9.4
690	M Owen	LIV	0	48	10.5
640	OG Solskjaer	MAN	0	33	8.1
641	A Cole	MAN	0	56	8.7
649	T Sheringham	MAN	0	0	7.5
609	B Deane	MID	0	20	6.5
611	H Ricard	MID	0	37	6.6
613	M Beck	MID	0	20	6.2
615	A Armstrong	MID	0	0	6.0
653	A Campbell	MID	0	0	5.1
667	A Andersson	NEW	0	3	8.7
670	A Shearer	NEW	0	36	10.1
676	L Saha	NEW	0	7	6.2
627	M Harewood	NOT	0	5	5.1
629	N Shipperley	NOT	0	7	6.5
630	P Van Hooijdonk	NOT	0	21	7.8
634	JC Darcheville	NOT	0	5	6.1
635	D Freedman	NOT	2	27	6.3
655	R Cresswell	SHE	0	0	5.8
659	R Humphreys	SHE	0	3	5.3
660	A Quinn	SHE	0	0	5.0
663	F Sanetti	SHE	0	0	5.9
664	A Booth	SHE	0	24	6.5
666	P Di Canio	SHE	0	14	7.1
708	M Pahars	SOT	0	0	6.1
638	M Hughes	SOU	0	2	6.5
665	D Hirst	SOU	0	0	6.1
703	E Ostenstad	SOU	0	26	6.9
704	J Beattie	SOU	0	15	5.2
706	S Basham	SOU	0	3	5.0
707	H Kachloul	SOU	0	15	5.1
650	C Armstrong	TOT	0	25	7.1
658	L Ferdinand	TOT	0	11	8.1
687	S Iversen	TOT	0	17	6.4
688	R Allen	TOT	0	0	5.2
603	I Wright	WES	0	24	7.8
614	J Hartson	WES	0	22	8.2
643	S Abou	WES	0	0	5.6
644	P Kitson	WES	0	15	6.3
672	C Leaburn	WIM	0	8	5.5
681	J Euell	WIM	3	34	5.4
700	M Gayle	WIM	0	41	5.8
701	E Ekoku	WIM	0	12	6.0
705	C Cort	WIM	0	3	5.3



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Descartes deconstructed in space

Reality goes into the cybermincer in Hollywood's latest high-tech blockbuster. **Giles Whittell** reports



BIG SCREEN USA

It was as if David L. Smith had sneaked into a preview of **The Matrix** and seen in it his destiny. Smith was the 30-year-old computer programmer arrested on Friday for sending a paralysing virus called Melissa racing through the Internet. His pursuit through cyberspace to New Jersey by the FBI and America Online was an uncanny echo of *The Matrix's* opening scenes, which even then, with mind-boggling panache, were blasting their way into general release.

Smith could get 40 years in prison, but unless he is very unlucky, he won't have his mouth digitally sealed by cyborg agents dressed like the Blues Brothers. Nor will a mechanical scorpion bore its way into his belly button as his entire understanding of reality is upended and rebuilt in a grimy rebel battleship fleeing from dastardly machines in a world where humans are trapped in slime and plundered for "bioelectricity". This is what happens to Keanu Reeves in his first decent thriller since *Speed*.

The only advance clue that *The Matrix* might be any good was the fact that it was directed by Andy and Larry Wachovski, who made *Bound* in 1996. Brothers are all the rage as film-making teams — to wit the Coens, the Farrellys and now, in London, the Butterworths — and *Bound*, full of black leather and lesbian lust, proved a cult hit with the lesbian lust crowd. Otherwise *The Matrix* did itself no favours with its marketing. With a desperately high-concept title and billboards that looked like advertisements for biker gear and semi-automatic weapons, it seemed designed to pull in a few bored male adolescents but deter all grown-ups. They should not be put off.

Philosophically, *The Matrix* starts by pulling apart "I think, therefore I am" and replacing it, in an age of virtual hyper-reality about 100 years hence, with "I think I am, but I'm not sure any more". Such is Reeves's initial, terrifying suspicion, gleaned from sleepless nights spent hacking into the rebel (ie, human) underworld. He is right, of course. Everything he thought was real is virtual, fed to him and millions like him through data uplinks in the backs of their necks by a grotesque artificial intelligence that took over the planet in the middle of the 21st century. Steaks, jobs, nightclubs and even dreams are all digital. *Real* reality is the grim but noble struggle to win back freedom for humanity.

There is plenty of pseudo-scientific claptrap here. The dialogue, as *Daily Variety* noted, is drenched in a "pretentious mumbo-jumbo of undergraduate mythology, religious mysticism and technobabble". But at least you have to think, which is a huge bonus in a film that will be remembered mainly for its staggering visual effects. *The Matrix* boasts enough squid-like robots and gothicky futurism to satisfy sci-fi purists, but where it pushes the envelope is with the human form. Reeves and Co spent three months training with a Hong Kong-based "wire fighting" expert and then surrendered their images to what the production notes call "bullet-time photography" — the computerised equivalent of super-slow motion shot at 12,000 frames per second. The resulting kung fu and shootout sequences have people stopping bullets and leaping between tall buildings without so much as a magic cape. Superman should look to his laurels.

"Unfortunately no one can be told what the matrix is," Laurence Fishburne intones as the captain of the rebel crew. "You have to see it for yourself." The same goes for the film. In technical terms it picks up where *Terminator 2* left off, and generally ups the ante for the next instalment of *Star Wars*.

Almost incidentally, *The Matrix* also proves at last that Reeves is more than a one-hit wonder. Like Fishburne, who is still busy explaining plot details a full hour into the proceedings, he holds his own in the face of the special effects by acting as little as possible and without a trace of self-parody.

The only real performance here is by Hugo Weaving, who, as a relentless villain with bad skin and yellow teeth, is given plenty of time to establish his credentials as Hollywood's new Tommy Lee Jones. And the only real quibble is with the damp squib role given to Carrie-Anne Moss. She looks terrific in a black catsuit, and she can run and jump and fall down as well as any of the rebels. Towards the end the question of which of them will save the world arises, and she could have been a contender. Instead she just gives Reeves a revivifying kiss.

A lack of female assertiveness is one complaint that cannot be made of **The Out-of-Towners**, an egregiously unoriginal vehicle for Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn that Paramount must have hoped would not be competing for *The Matrix's* audience. It certainly looks made for ageing baby-boomers, with Martin and Hawn pratfalling mindlessly from Ohio to Central Park in nice cashmere coats, and Hawn proving the tougher cookie in a crisis. This is an unnecessary remake of a not terribly good 1970 original. Its American stars are watchable enough losing their heads in airports and hire cars, but they are undermined by a script whose premise is not so much out of town as out of date: New York is simply no longer scary, even to fuddy-duddies.

Martin and Hawn are also comprehensively upstaged by our very own John Cleese. He has seven minutes of screen time as a hideously unctuous Manhattan hotel manager, and they hint tantalisingly at what might have become of Basil Fawlty had Cleese not tired of writing his lines. So how about it? Fawlty hits New York! Takes on the Matrix! You saw it here first.

● www.whatisthematrix.com



Getting the point: Keanu Reeves falls foul of humankind's 21st-century technological masters in the Wachovski brothers' *The Matrix*. "Reeves's first decent thriller since *Speed*"

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1	(-)	The Matrix (Warner)	$27.6m/—
2	(-)	10 Things I hate About You (Touchstone)	$8.7m/—
3	(-)	The Out-of-Towners (Paramount)	$8.1m/—
4=	(2)	Analyze This (Warner)	$6.3m/$69.3m
4=	(1)	Forces of Nature (DreamWorks)	$6.3m/$26.8m
6	(3)	EDtv (Universal)	$4.6m/$8.3m
7	(6)	Shakespeare in Love (Miramax)	$3.3m/$79.3m
8	(5)	Doug's 1st Movie (Walt Disney)	$3.1m/$4.5m
9	(8)	Life is Beautiful (Miramax)	$2.8m/$40.1m
10	(4)	The Mod Squad (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)	$2.4m/$6.1m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, April 2-4. Second amount is total takings to March 29. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position.*

● New releases dominate this week's chart. The low-budget teen movie *10 Things I Hate About You*, an update of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, has jumped in at the No 2 spot behind *The Matrix*, while *The Out-of-Towners*, a remake of the classic 1970 comedy, is at No 3

MUSIC: Hilary Finch on the South Bank concert tomorrow which will boost a cancer campaign

You need friends



Peter Jablonski: aiding the Everyman cancer appeal

The Swedish pianist Peter Jablonski first met a double-bass player called Thomas Croxon when they were students together at the Royal College of Music. Both had quite a career ahead of them: Jablonski as a pianist who would tour North America and Japan four times before he was 30; Croxon as a freelance double-bass much in demand by the Philharmonia, London Symphony and BBC orchestras. Neither of them was to know that in October 1997 Croxon's career was to be stopped in its tracks by the onset of testicular cancer.

While ill in St Bartholomew's Hospital, Croxon noticed that *The Times* was running an appeal for the Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman campaign to set up Britain's first dedicated Male Urological Research Centre. "When I got better," Croxon says, "I just wanted to do something to honour the doctors who looked after me. Chemotherapy can often affect high-tone hearing, and my specialist was very aware of how this might affect me as a musician. And I felt that this particular appeal would enable me to use the voice of music to thank him, and to spread the word further to raise the profile of male cancer research."

It just so happened that, at exactly that time, Croxon had turned on his radio in hospital and heard a rather remarkable performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. The pianist was Vladimir Ashkenazy. Croxon's first week back at work took him on tour with Ashkenazy, and he asked him if he would conduct the gala fund-raising concert he was plotting. Croxon then remembered that his old college friend, Jablonski, had recorded Gershwin's Piano Concerto with Ashkenazy, and the deal was struck. Tomorrow, both musicians will donate their fees from their Festival Hall concert to the appeal.

The Gershwin concerto fuses a jazz musician's free-wheeling exuberance with the more formal disciplines of a concert pianist on his best behaviour. And that sort of fusion is very much what makes Jablonski the musician he is. His first public performance was with a jazz band at the age of six: he went for the drums, "and I guess I still have the rhythm." The piano moved centrestage for Jablonski when he came to London to study at the RCM in 1988. And Ashkenazy had already spotted him and asked if he could conduct his recording of the Gershwin.

Jablonski went on to make his name with Tchaikovsky, with Rachmaninov, with Scriabin. "As a young pianist you are constantly asked to play the heroic, romantic repertoire." But slowly, privately, he has been focusing on Beethoven, learning the concertos out of the spotlight before daring to approach the Third Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic and Daniele Gatti next year.

For Croxon, it's business as usual: he will be back playing in the company of his old Philharmonia friends in Bernstein, Gershwin and Rimsky-Korsakov tomorrow. "The concert will close one chapter of my life, and open another one. And it really will be for everyman. There will be many people in the audience who won't have been to a concert before. I'm so excited about that."

● *Music for Everyman gala concert, Festival Hall, tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-960 4242)*

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

■ MOZART'S PIANO CONCERTO NO 21
Reviewed by Colin Lawson

MOST people still associate this wonderful concerto with Bo Widerberg's 1967 film *Elvira Madigan*. Its story-line revolves around a chronicle of hopeless love, complemented by the wistful Romantic qualities of Mozart's slow movement, with its muted pizzicato strings, murmuring accompaniment and seamless flow of melody. But the outer movements of this concerto are also truly inspired, with some remarkable contrasts of mood and content.

Mozart completed the work in March 1785, during an amazingly busy period of teaching, giving concerts and entertaining his father in Vienna. We can only speculate on the qualities of Mozart's own playing, though something of the original sound is recreated on Malcolm Bilson's recording for DG Archiv on a copy of the composer's own fortepiano. On this disc the delicate sound of the solo instrument is not quite balanced by the powerful forces of John Elliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists.

Another type of balance problem emerges in certain older recordings made with full symphony orchestras by pianists such as Clifford Curzon, Artur Rubenstein and Rudolph Serkin. One of the most poetic of vintage recordings is the highly recommendable version by Annie Fisher and the Philharmonia, recorded in 1959.

Mozart's piano concertos represent one of the most competitive areas in the marketplace, and there has been a veritable avalanche of recordings during the past 20 years. András Schiff on Decca brings a subtle freedom to the music and there are also eloquent readings from Murray Perahia and Mitsuko Uchida. I was especially drawn to Alfred Brendel for the sheer range of intellect and emotion he brings to the music. His playing somehow reminds me that one of Mozart's closest friends reckoned that a well-trained musician needed to be versed in the whole of worldly wisdom and mathematics, poetry, elocution, art and languages.

But for the warmth and clarity of a modern digital recording, with finely modulated wind playing complementing an extrovert soloist, I warmly recommend as first choice **Maria Joao Pires**, with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under **Claudio Abbado** (Deutsche Grammophon 439 941-2, £15.99). Pires remains alert to all the theatrical aspects of the music, proving herself a true virtuoso throughout the concerto. Above all she has the ability to move her audience.

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk.*
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Poulenc's Concerto for Organ Strings and Timpani

Modernism's missing link

VISUAL ART: In Leeds **John Russell Taylor** admires afresh the vision of the Polish artist Katarzyna Kobro

The biggest gallery of the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds is a luminous white box, a cube extended upwards and able to receive a blaze of natural light filtered down from above. Usually one is not conscious of this, since the floor space is often compartmented, its lighting moderated. But at the moment, hanging as it were in the midst of this white void, are a group of sculptures, all of them abstract and several painted in simple, primary, De Stijl colours. In fact, they only appear to be suspended: they are actually standing on translucent plastic stands very much like those designed by their artist more than half a century ago as the ideal support for her sculptures.

The artist is Katarzyna Kobro. Twentieth-century art history seems to be full of supposedly key figures of whom no one has ever heard, but it cannot be denied that Kobro is a major discovery outside Poland. Or, in England, strictly speaking a major rediscovery, since she and her artist husband Vladislav Strzeminski have cropped up in mixed British exhibitions, most recently it seems in Annely Juda's 1993 show *Couples*, celebrating pairs of married artists: the Delaunays, the Arps, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner, Kobro and Strzeminski. But there has never, anywhere, been a comprehensive solo retrospective devoted to Kobro, and that now staged in Leeds presents her and her art in a wholly new perspective.

The show is arranged in collaboration with the Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz, which now incorporates the first museum in the world devoted to abstract art, founded by Kobro and Strzeminski in the Thirties. It is through the determination of the museum, and of Kobro's daughter, that her fame has been kept alive since her death in 1951 — both by the conservation and judicious exhibition of the surviving works, and by, more recently, the meticulous reconstruction of works lost or partially destroyed during the difficult days of the German occupation and the war, when they were kept in her tiny Lodz flat.

> ‘She has become a hot tip in movers and shakers’

The 25 works shown in Leeds, a handful of them present only in photographs of lost originals which do not contain enough information to allow reconstruction, constitute virtually the entire corpus of Kobro's work now in existence.

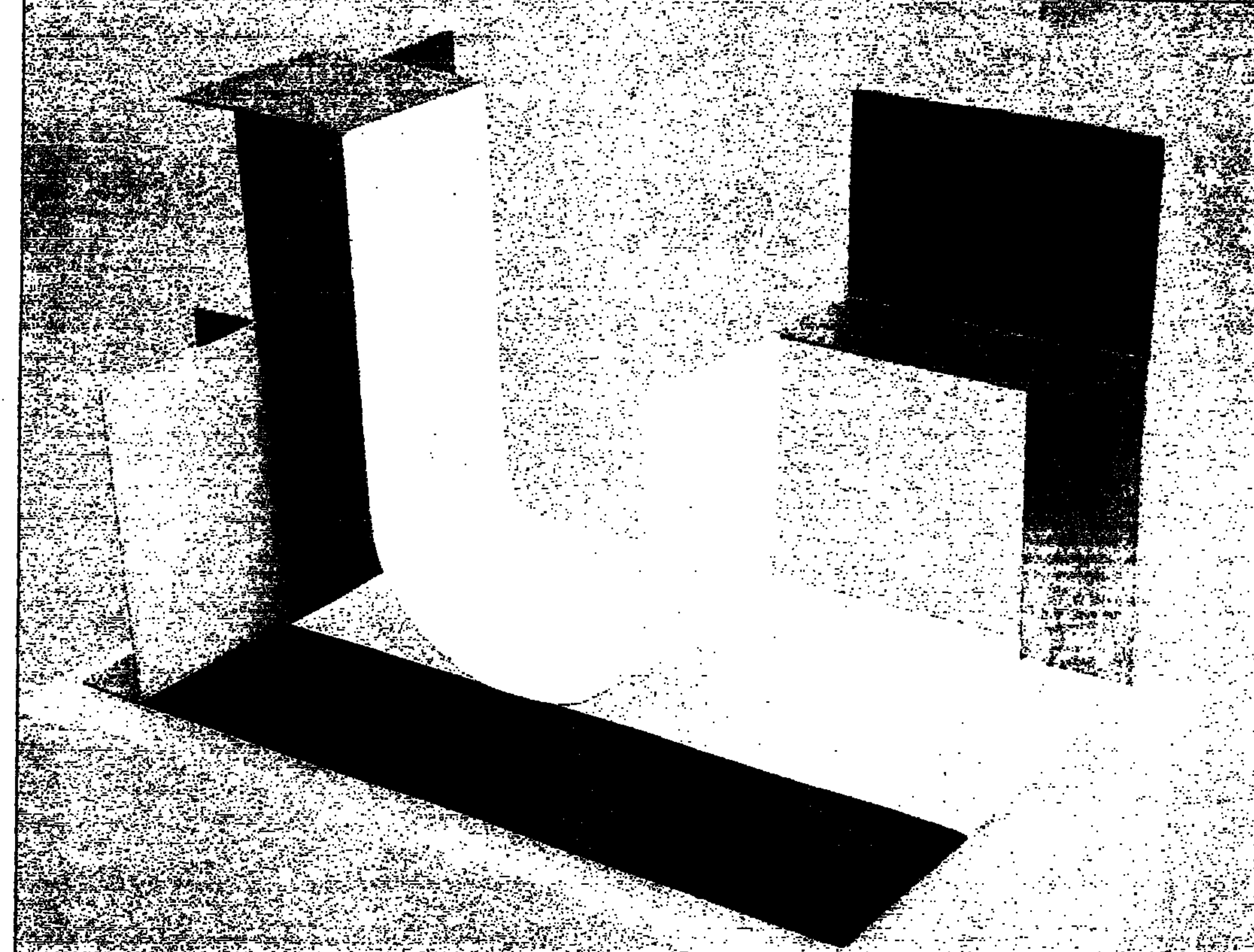
What, then, is so important about Kobro, that she has become the world's hottest tip for reinstatement in the pantheon of makers and shakers of modern art?

Partly the importance is historical: she is the vital link between Constructivism in Russia and Modernist Abstraction in Central Europe. Kobro was born in Russia in 1898, and received her art training in Moscow, becoming a close associate of Malevich and Tatlin in their first experimentation with non-representational form. In 1916 she met Strzeminski in a military hospital, where she was working as a nurse and he had been placed after being wounded. They married and in 1922, finding the atmosphere of Russia by then increasingly restrictive, resettled in Poland, in Strzymanski's native Lodz.

Throughout the years between the wars they both worked intensively for modern art, writing, showing their own work and teaching: Kobro taught applied arts in an industrial training school for women, as well as working in architecture and the theatre. She was the conduit through which a sort of Modernism parallel to that of De Stijl in Holland developed independently in Central Europe, and continued to take hold even after it had been completely rooted out in Stalinist Russia.

This is important. But even more important now is the singular purity and beauty of the work itself. The hanging mobiles continue to move gracefully in the slightest breeze, the stabiles (as Calder would have called them) occupy their own space with curved and rectilinear shapes which radiate at once dynamism and tranquillity. The later work develops according to an intricate mathematical system of proportions which she evolved for herself, based ultimately on the Golden Section. It was clearly a tragedy for art that motherhood and the coming of war forced Kobro to give up serious work. But what does exist is truly magical.

● *Henry Moore Institute, 74 The Headrow, Leeds (0113-234 3158), daily 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 9pm), until June 27*


MUZEUM SZTUKI, LODZ

Spatial Composition 4 **(1929) by Katarzyna Kobro, who was the vital conduit through which Modernism developed independently in Central Europe**

Richard Cork turns over the glossy new leaves of a coffee-table crop of lavishly illustrated spring books for art-lovers

Collected works that speak volumes

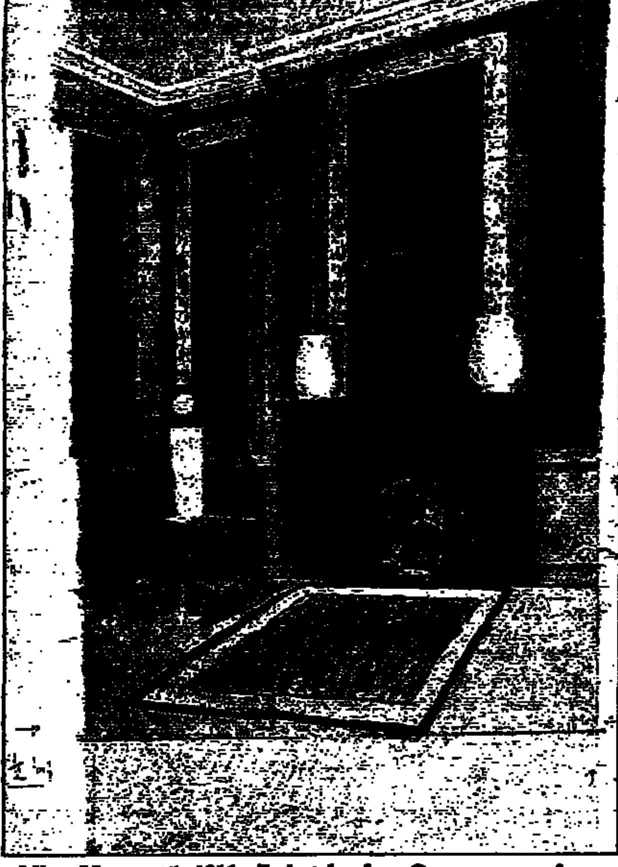
Under Neil MacGregor's directorship, the National Gallery is flourishing as never before. And to complement the excellence of its shows, display and acquisitions, the gallery is publishing a superb series of catalogues devoted to different aspects of its collection. Its latest volume, **The 15th-Century Netherlandish Schools** (National Gallery, £55), may sound dry, but the book is a visual delight, backing the author Lorne Campbell's profound scholarship with excellent colour plates.

It serves to underline just how many outstanding Netherlandish paintings from this crucial period are owned by the gallery, even if Campbell is unafraid to demote several familiar images. Often regarded as a masterpiece by Robert Campin, *The Virgin and Child before a Firescreen* has "many incongruities" and may be "a highly sophisticated pastiche based on several Campinesque prototypes". But the secure authorship of many other pictures is reinforced at length — not least the great Jan van Eyck portrait of Arnolfini and his wife, whose miraculous intensity is revealed in a wealth of detail.

Our national collections are equally rich in paintings produced in the southern Netherlands during the 17th century. Both Rubens and Van Dyck were prized by Charles I, and many of their canvases remain in this country. But Hans Vlieghe, in his comprehensive survey of **Flemish Art and Architecture 1585-1700** (Yale, £50), redresses the balance. He places these two masters firmly in the context of their nation's culture, encompassing not only painters as substantial as Jacob Jordaens but a wealth of lesser-known names. The result is constantly illuminating, not least for Vlieghe's discussion of notable sculpture and architecture often overlooked in Britain.

Discoveries also abound in Sybille Ebert-Schifferer's magisterial **Still Life: A History** (Abrams, £79.95). Rooms full of flower paintings in museums can seem dull, but the truth is that still life has prompted some of the finest achievements in Western art. Ebert-Schifferer takes an admirably wide view, showing how the subject began in classical images of "hospitality gifts" and was then rediscovered during the Renaissance period. Hans Memling's exquisite *Majolica Vase with Flowers* is a pioneering example, but other northern artists such as Barthel Bruyn soon began to explore the darker, mortality-obsessed world of the vanitas. Skulls appear, and in succeeding centuries the concern with death runs hand in hand with a desire to celebrate the natural world. Often the two impulses unite: Caravaggio's *Basket of Fruit* looks luscious, but signs of decay are detectable on closer scrutiny. Even in David Hockney's 1988 *Still Life with Book on a Table*, the most recent painting here, attractiveness is countered by a sense of vulnerability.

Timed to coincide with the National Gallery's current survey of Ingres portraits, Aileen Ribeiro's **Ingres in Fashion** (Yale, £30) offers an excellent accompaniment to the show. Any suspicion that the book might trivialise a great painter is quickly scotched by the searching intelligence of Ribeiro's text. She reveals how seriously Ingres approached the task of depicting the fashionable woman, and how much attention he paid to their clothes. The magnificent illustrations close in on details with such sensuous clarity that readers may well feel impelled to pay



Nina Hamnett's 1916 oil sketch of an Omega room from Tanya Harrod's *The Crafts in Britain in the 20th Century*

the exhibition a second visit.

A more elegiac note is sounded by Robert Gordon's and Andrew Forge's **The Last Flowers of Manet** (Abradale, £7.95), for these deceptively beguiling little paintings, each concentrating on a few blooms in a glass vessel, were executed by a dying man. Probably suffering from body-wasting syphilis, Manet was just over 50 when the fatal illness began to erode his strength. Hence the modesty of these canvases, swift studies of bouquets often sent by concerned friends. Most are surprisingly buoyant, but *Flowers in a Crystal Vase* does look dispirited as the petals struggle to emerge from the encircling darkness.

The spirit of Modernism at its most optimistic is evoked in Matthew Gale's and Chris Stephens's **Barbara Hepworth** (Tate Gallery, £35), a scholarly and splendidly illustrated catalogue of the Tate's unrivalled collection of her work. During the interwar period, when she came to maturity in London, hopes were high for integrating adventurous modern art and architecture with a new society. Many of her finest carvings date from that heady period, before the war drove her to Cornwall. But she soon found ample inspiration in her new surroundings. Some of the finest colour plates show how her sculpture seems at one with the flowers and plants springing from the fecund Cornish soil.

Hepworth herself appears, dressed as the sun and moon at a Penwith Society party, in Tanya Harrod's **The Crafts in Britain in the 20th Century** (Yale, £45). But Bernard Leach, seen in the same photograph, rightly plays a far more important role in Harrod's text. Her book is a formidable achievement, the first to encompass the full richness and variety of the crafts from before the First World War right up to the late 1980s. She traces an interaction with so-called fine art throughout, most notably in the multifaceted work of Eric Gill and the interiors designed by members of Roger Fry's Omega Workshop. Nina Hamnett's oil sketch of an Omega room, published in 1917, shows how Duncan Grant's marquetry tray and Fry's chair combine with the severely abstract wall paintings to produce an adventurous unity. Crafts nevertheless deserve to be studied in their own right, and Harrod does their history full justice throughout a volume enlivened by more than 500 illustrations. They embrace everything from William Morris's gold, leather-tooled copy of Karl Marx's *Le Capital* to Jacqueline Poncelet's ebullient clay and enamel creature, half human, half animal, and bristling with vitality.

Anyone wanting to revisit the most notorious art-world controversies of the past half-century can now consult John A. Walker's **Art & Outrage** (Pluto, £14.99). All the eruptions are here, from Alfred Munnings's splenetic attack on the avant-garde at the Royal Academy banquet to Marcus Harvey's vilified portrait of Myra Hindley in the *Sensation* exhibition. The British appetite for excoriating modern art is so voracious that Walker has no difficulty filling his book with venomous assaults by hysterical commentators.

New buildings can arouse equally acrid passions, and Daniel Libeskind's brilliant proposal for an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum has already provoked feverish denunciations. But his Jewish Museum in Berlin has now opened, and Bernhard Schneider's book (Prestel, £9.95) reveals its compelling impact. Splintered and punctured on the façade, it offers macabre voids internally. Libeskind has memorialised the Jewish tragedy in an eloquent yet uncompromisingly terse manner, producing a masterpiece of modern architecture right at the century's end.

Top talent on tap

With multiple opera commissions and recent West End representation via *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Doctor Dolittle*, **Aletta Collins** is at the top of the independent dance-makers' ladder. **Stephen Hughes**, meanwhile, is clambering up it. Both were showcased last week at The Place Theatre, as part of London's *Spring Loaded* dance festival.

Hughes's trio of works for his Red Rain Dance Theatre secures his spot in the "watch this space" category. *Hedo-Scetic* observes four young people indulging in a game of dice. Gradually, as booze erodes inhibitions, their initial, post-juvenile behaviour (flashes of flesh, same-sex kisses) slides toward deeper, darker waters. The piece winds up suggesting, rather than revealing, the quartet's more dangerous undercurrents of fantasy, aggression and intimacy, but there is a convincing texture to the on-stage relationships of Hughes, Stephen Berkeley-White, Desiree Kongerød and Stine Nilsen.

Where Raging Fires Meet embroils all five

DANCE

dancers in a set-to between an exhausted woman and a proprietorial male. Although the dance gets lost up a blind alley of dramatised abstractions, it shows that Hughes is gifted. Mastery of form should follow.

The bill was rounded out by *Here Comes Renard*, a barnyard battle-of-the-sexes sprung from Stravinsky's 1915 "burlesque tale in song and dance", *Renard*. Imbued with the rough precocity of youth, this jape of a dance underlines Hughes's interest in character and group dynamics. Cast as chickens and foxes, members of Scottish Ballet kept the fur and feathers flying.

The starting point of Collins's double-bill was her kinetic response to the energy coursing through 20th-century American music. Leonard Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* percolated beneath the solo *Certain Obsessions*. Collins brought brash confidence to this throwaway comic paean to a performer's cheesy neuroses.

In *Alice is Back in Wonderland*, a free-form and humorous spin-off from Lewis Carroll, Collins made fizzy use of Gershwin's glorious *Rhapsody in Blue*. Her cohorts were the statuesque redheads Anna Williams and Ragnhild Olsen, and Rachel Krische, shortish and brunette like Collins. Resembling a young Woody Allen, complete with spectacles, Krische lent riveting authority and superb timing to the central role. But the others, Collins included, were no slouches. With its stop-go rhythms, her choreography was consistently light and ingenious. Alasdair Graebner's cool, aqueous lighting and Jackie Galloway's airy white pyjama costumes helped to make this one of the most delightful dances in recent memory.

DONALD HUTERA

Fiddling with tradition

FESTIVAL

Reader, I tried. I wore my best green trousers. I approached the Barbican humming *Danny Boy*. But once Mícheál O'Súilleabháin, Celtic crossover king and Limerick university professor, struck up at the piano with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, I lost faith in the magic of Ireland. In pieces like *Woodbrook* and *Ah, Sweet Dancer*, usually elaborated from folk materials, his fingers flew daintily over the keyboard, jigging along with jazz embroidery while the orchestra strings mooched through some pastoral chords. Sometimes the strings entered first, sometimes the piano; sometimes a guest artist tootled or bowed on flute or violin. It made little difference; this was an evening of music stranded and lost somewhere between the Irish pub and the hotel cocktail lounge.

The strange thing is that considerable erudition lies blanketed behind O'Súilleabháin's bland tinklings. At Limerick he runs the Irish World Music Centre. He organises courses in, among other things, plainchant, music therapy and "ethnochoreology". He knows his classics along with his folk melodies; and has basked in the guiding light of Seán O Riada, masterly composer and grandfather to the Chieftains, who first opened his ears to Ireland's folk heritage. A few selections, like a movement from a reworked concerto for traditional musician (flautist Niall Keegan), drew strength from O'Súilleabháin's classical training. Mostly the drooping sounds left me yearning for a real Irish knees-up, Percy Grainger's brisk folk work-outs, or perhaps total silence.

The amplified sound made it hard to accurately judge the finesse of O'Súilleabháin's piano or the youthful ICO strings. Amplifiers also did strange things to other soloists. Máiread Ní Mhaonaigh, from the Altan folk group, scraped through on the violin. But the talents of New Zealand harmonica player Brendan Power became swallowed in the reverberations of his own composition, *Lament for the 21st Century*, a threadbare piece; while Keegan's flute often offered more breath than notes.

The most instructive guest artist, however, was Brian Kennedy, Belfast-born pop singer. When he sang intimately to his guitar, his qualities shone. However, when piano and orchestra kicked in behind him with *You Are That Kind of Person* and *Heart of Stillness*, two O'Súilleabháin songs, the voice lost its colour in falsetto somersaults, ungainly bleats, and the strain of singing terrible words. A good night for the sale of Irish ale; a bad one for music.

GEOFF BROWN

■ LISTINGS

Kate O'Mara in Salisbury

ARTS

■ OPERA

Spotlight on Giordano

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

MAMMA MIA!: Musical based on the songs of Abba: Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. **Prince Edward** (0171-447 5400). Opens tonight, 7pm.

JOHN HEGLEY: The popular comic and bard adds dance to his repertoire. In a week of cabaret-style performances he is joined by a parade of eclectic performers, with snippets of choreography provided by Wendy Houstoun and Matthew Hawkins. **The Place** (0171-387 0031). Opens tonight, 8pm.

BY MANY WOUNDS: A brief run for Zinnie Harris's first play where parents try to keep one daughter ignorant of the fate of her sister. **Hampstead Theatre** (0171-722 9301). Ⓢ Opens tonight, 8pm.

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: The rising young French contralto Nathalie Stutzmann makes her debut with the renowned period instrument band in an evening of Corelli and Bach. Catherine Mackintosh leads from the violin. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

COMPOSER CHOICE: In tonight's selection by Oliver Knussen the Endymion Ensemble plays a number of Knussen's own pieces together with works by Stravinsky, Berg, Busoni, Maxwell Davies et al. **Purcell Room** (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

GUILDFORD: Nick Wilton, Brian Deacon and Edward de Souza star in Good Company's tour of **Samuel Pepys, The Secret Diaries**. Sue Pomeroy directs. **Yvonne Arnaud** (01483 440000). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Until Sat. Ⓢ

READING: The St Petersburg Ballet Theatre concludes its British tour here with performances of two ballet classics: Swan Lake (tonight, Fri and Sat) and Giselle (tomorrow and Thur). **Hexagon** (0118 960 6060). Performances at 7.30pm. Ⓢ

SALISBURY: Kate O'Mara plays the ageing diva in Anouilh's **Colombe**, a comedy of backstage intrigue and worldly wisdom. Jonathan Church directs Jeremy Sams's new translation. **Playhouse** (01722 320333). Ⓢ Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

Lisa Stokke stars in the musical *Mamma Mia!*

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **THE GIN GAME**. Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner. **Savoy** (0171-836 8888) Ⓢ

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE**: Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket (0171-930 8800) Ⓢ

■ **GOOD**. C P Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs. **Donmar** (0171-369 1732) Ⓢ

□ **CARD BOYS**. Even the pests who stick sex cards in phone boxes have dreams of bettering themselves, Mike Packer's spirited play tells us. **Bush** (0181-743 3388).

□ **400 JOKES WITH THE DEVIL**. This is Theatre Alibi's touring account of Eisenstein's life and career, from the Odessa Steps onwards. Includes footage of his films. **Lyric Studio**, W6 (0181-741 8701).

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD**: Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Definitely a metaphor. Rupert Gould directs. **Gate** (0171-229 0706)

■ **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**. Adrian Noble's spectacular production of the first Narnia adventure comes to town. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Ⓢ

□ **SACRED HEART**: In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads, brought up in NW3, meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs. **Ambassadors** (0171-565 5000).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY**. The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play. **Gielgud** (0171-494 5065).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the culture-mad English spinsters who raised the director in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is closer to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid than The Rake's Progress. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. His 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindingly naive in the sleazy 1990s. Bill Kelly directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12): Plucky performances can't save this: a tortuous trawl through a German soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs.

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's one and only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1955 fear movie.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (ICA): You could hang Sogo Ishii's surreal Japanese science fiction in the Tate. It's a beautiful, inscrutable look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious epidemic that turns the guts to stone.

CURRENT

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky thriller. With Gregg Henry, William Devane, James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults; an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

OPERA: In the Italian provinces, **Rodney Milnes** reassesses the reputation of an unjustly despised composer

Right between the ears

In the field of German opera it has become a cliché to remark that a colossus of the stature of Wagner causes fearful problems for his successors. Where on earth do you go from there? We still do not quite know: composers went to atonality, Neo-Classicism, Expressionism, even Post-Modernism. It is less of a cliché to note the same situation in an Italy emerging from the shadow of Verdi, especially since his successor, Puccini, cast almost as long a shadow, and it is tempting simply to write off the latter's contemporaries as second-raters. Some of them were (did I hear you mention Cilea? Or Alfano?) but not all, and we honestly do not hear enough of them to make a balanced judgment. Zandonai — *Giulietta e Romeo*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *I cavalieri di Ekebu* — sounds more and more like the musical equivalent of d'Annunzio, with all that that implies, including the implication that he cannot simply be written off.

And Giordano is a big problem. His operas are regularly staged, everywhere; stuffier commentators dump on them just as regularly, and still they get staged. It might be an exaggeration to call *Fedora* the worst opera ever written, but it is among the worst operas regularly performed. *Andrea Chénier* is the one that resolutely refuses to go away: you can pick holes in its dramaturgy — the characters of Bersi, Roucher and the spy Incredibile have no real function; you can pick holes in the music — Giordano is sparing with tunes, which seldom last for more than a couple of bars and (understandably) seldom come back. But *Chénier* itself keeps on coming back: singers love to sing it, audiences love to hear it.

A younger and wiser friend once told me I might understand its appeal if I heard a good provincial performance in a good provincial Italian opera house, and the opportunity to do so in Parma last weekend, followed by Giordano's much later *La cena delle beffe* down the road in Bologna, proved irresistible, just as my mentor was proved right. If you — and the performers — approach *Chénier* as a good, loud sing and no more, then it has a lot to commend it.

Ivan Stefanutti's production had no truck with earnest realism or encouraging singers to take part in serious drama: they faced out front and let the audience have it between the eyes, with a toss of the head and twitch of outstretched arms at the end of numbers to elicit applause. Stefanutti's set showed a good section of a Parisian *quartier*, richly detailed, beautifully painted, dimly lit. The complete lack of pretension allowed what gutstrength the piece has to shine through. And Nicola Martinucci's Chénier was much more than just provincial: his baritonal tenor is richly coloured, he never screams (though he has all the requisite powerful top notes), and he phrases almost more musically than the notes deserve. A good rumbustious evening.

It is easy to forget that *Chénier* (1896) is a young man's opera — Giordano was less than 30 — and came well before *Tosca*. *La cena delle beffe*, or "Feast of Fools", (1924), is quite a different kettle of *verismo*: it was an education to hear what can happen to a composer in nearly 30 years. The tunes — and they are good — do more than just start: they develop and conclude as logically as Puccini's. The orchestration is often spare and subtle — Giordano had been listening to Debussy. The dramaturgy is taut and to the point, the action based closely on a play by Sem Benelli. The subject is a wham-bam revenge melodrama, with bags of sex, stabbing and madness, both feigned and real. Maybe it does not aim too high, but it knows where it is going and gets there.

It was quite superbly performed in Bologna. The director Liliana Cavani updated the action from the Florence of Lorenzo the Magnificent to the present day: the opening feast was in what looked like one of those city banks converted into a cocktail club, crammed with yuppies who threw bread-rolls and smoked cigarettes — you knew they were wrong 'uns.

The heroine's boudoir, where much of the sex'n'stabbing takes place, was the last word in designer chic, and the scene where the hard-drinking, womanising villain undergoes primitive aversion therapy by being made to confront his victims was horribly creepy. The whole *mise-en-scène* carried conviction.

Cena is as hard to sing as *Chénier*, and there was a quite overwhelming performance from the young Sardinian soprano Paoletta Marrocu, of whom we will hear more: firm, bright tone, quite unfazed either by the role's difficulties or by the fact that she had to spend a lot of the time in *deshabillé*. Alberto Cupido did honourably in the strenuous role of the avenger, and Marco Chingari smouldered dangerously as his victim. Roberto Polastri conducted with flair, and the sound in the acoustically lively Teatro Comunale was rich and rare.

Late Giordano will obviously repay further investigation.



A feast of fun: the cast pull out all the stops in Giordano's *La cena delle beffe* at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna





DONALD COOPER

Vivian Tierney as Salome rejoices in her gruesome prize

Dance to a brutal death

Salome
Coliseum

Richard Strauss's operatic genius lay at least partly in his ability to conjure up both beauty and violence more vividly than almost any other composer. He wrote some of the most erotic music for the stage, and also some of the most depraved. But that depravity has rarely seemed as strong as in English National Opera's latest revival of *Salome*: if the success of a performance can be judged on how uncomfortable it leaves you feeling, this one is a winner.

The "yuk-factor" in David Leveaux's 1996 staging is very high indeed, but never for gratuitous reasons. In fact, the production is sombre, and although it dispenses with all the Moreau-like, symbolist imagery of tradition, it remains true to many of the original stage directions — unusually, there is evidence of the sumptuous banqueting at Herod's palace.

Vicki Mortimer's set is dominated by a tall, crumbling brick wall, suggestive of a decaying regime, as are the costumes, which evoke the period of the opera's première (Dresden, 1905) and the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm II. It's all very ugly, and Jokanaan is kept prisoner in little more than a drain.

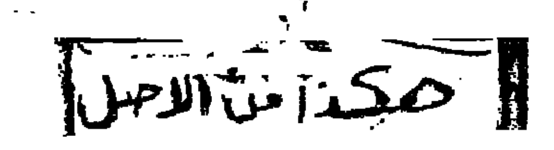
Leveaux's production is a study of people on the edge of an "end game" and the omens that so trouble Herod oppress everyone else too. Characters are — literally, given the prominent place of a ladder in the set — climbing the wall. At the centre of everything is a wildly dysfunctional family: this is about much more than the sexual fantasies of a mixed-up teenager. Yet the staging never goes beyond what is already in the score, and that would have pleased a composer who once said: "The music is disgusting enough already".

Under David Atherton, the orchestra gives its all. This is a heavy-breathing performance, but one of great flexibility that moves with the drama, and there is also clarity in those moments of diaphanous beauty. Almost every word comes across, no mean feat in such a dense score. There have been more glowing accounts of the music, but they would be out of place in this interpretation: even Salome's Dance is more suggestive of brutality than sexual languor.

But then, as performed by Vivian Tierney, there is little eroticism in the dance. She is a singing-actress quite capable of providing it, but instead plays the character as more than an obstinate, sex-crazed girl. Perhaps her Salome is sometimes too knowing or self-composed. Tierney's is not an ideal Salome soprano, lacking the radiant sweep required for the big moments, yet she does project her lines with fresh impetuosity, and she makes much of the quieter moments.

Matthew Best, recovering from a chest cold, sounded a little woolly yet was still impressive in his first performance as the zealot Jokanaan. In another role debut, John Graham-Hall sang strongly as a debauched Herod, going over the top in his ageing brat characterisation only towards the end. Elizabeth Vaughan's Herodias just avoids caricature despite her Cruella De Vil-meets-Barbara Cartland get-up, and with Mark Le Brocq as Narraboth and Ethna Robinson an incisive Page, this is a good ENO ensemble.

JOHN ALLISON



LAW

IAN WALDIE



Cherie Booth, QC, with Pamela Phelps after the High Court awarded Ms Phelps damages because her local education authority failed to spot her dyslexia

Lost chances: who pays?

Many parents who seek special education for their children have to go to court. **Danny Lee** reports

Anna Collins, an adoption administrator, has been struggling to get her 14-year-old dyslexic son, Andrew, a good education since he was at junior school. Her local education authority (LEA) in East London disagrees with an independent psychologist's assessment that the boy has organisational problems and suffers from the word and number blindness condition.

"Andrew used to have tantrums and couldn't remember things properly," Ms Collins says. "After he started secondary school, we took him to the Dyslexia Institute, which diagnosed the condition."

The education authority eventually agreed to offer six hours a week learning support on top of mainstream schooling, but after a few months, Ms Collins says, this broke down. There is now a dispute between psychologists for the LEA and for Ms Collins over what sort of schooling is appropriate. Ms Collins wants to take the education authority to court. "People like us have nowhere else to go except court," she says. "We can't afford to pay thousands of pounds a year for specialist schooling."

Yet as the law stands, even if an LEA psychologist or other professionals have been negligent in assessing a child's needs, the authority may not be held liable to pay compensation for lost chances in life. Jack Rabinowicz, a partner of Teacher Stern & Selby, says: "Hundreds of similar claims are waiting to go to court."

Mr Rabinowicz acts for Pamela Phelps, a 25-year-old dyslexic, who last November saw the Court of Appeal overturn the £46,650 damages the High Court had awarded her in a landmark ruling when she claimed that her local authority had been negligent for failing to identify her dyslexia. Her action, which is awaiting leave to appeal to the Lords, is the pivot on which all the other cases turn.

Meanwhile, the law has been left in a state of confusion. Mr Rabinowicz says: "I hope the House of Lords will clarify whether you can sue in these sorts of cases. But the other strand to this is the right to education under the Human Rights Act, which seems to suggest that even if the Lords say that people can't sue, under the Act they may be entitled to sue in any event."

Central to the reversal of the High Court's decision was Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's ruling that the trial judge "had not asked himself whether [the psychologist] had voluntarily assumed responsibility for advising [Phelps] through her parents. Her duty was to advise the school and the local education authority. Merely because [Phelps] was the object of that advice and the parents were told what the advice was, did not amount to such an assumption of responsibility.

"The court ought to be slow to superimpose on a duty which the employee owed to his employer, a further duty towards the plaintiff, in the absence of very clear evidence that the employee had undertaken such responsibility."

Ms Collins had been given hope by the High Court decision in the Phelps in September 1997, a ruling that had broken new ground in finding that the educational psychologist employed by the local authority owed a duty of care to the pupil she assessed. Even if that decision is reinstated, people who have suffered from undiagnosed dyslexia will not automatically be able to sue. It is accepted across the board that dyslexia is a developing issue and schools cannot reasonably be expected to have always known about it.

John Morrell, a Vizards partner who mainly defends in such cases and acts for the LEA in the Phelps case, takes a pragmatic view. "Are we all going to be entitled to blame someone for what happened 20 or 30 years ago?" he says. He highlights another problem with liability in dyslexia and similar cases. "How can you establish that any failure on the educational psychologist's part led to loss?"

Establishing causation and quantifying loss should not prevent a person being able to make a claim, according to John Davis, a partner at Irwin Mitchell. He says: "In looking at the loss in general terms, dyslexia cases are no different from many other actions, such as medical negligence claims for failed surgery."

Mr Davis is acting for 19-year-old Hannah Dwyer, who is suing the £8,000-a-year Worksop College for negligence in failing to recognise her dyslexia. He points out that although suing a fee-paying school introduces a contractual element into the claim, possibly avoiding the need to show a duty of care, the arguments about causation and the questions of what the person would have become had the dyslexia been properly dealt with remain the same. The Phelps case will, therefore, be highly significant for Ms Dwyer.

Although it will be even more relevant to Ms Collins, it may be too late. She says: "We now have only 18 months left for Andrew to make up for seven years."

E-mail:lawpage@the-times.co.uk

Silk should not be cut but overseen by the Bar

On Maundy Thursday the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, made his annual announcement of which lawyers have been promoted to the rank of Queen's Counsel. There are few more pleasurable moments in a barrister's career than appointment as a QC. And there are few more dismal experiences than opening a letter of rejection from the Lord Chancellor. But whether or not they have been awaiting judgment on their application, lawyers are finding it increasingly difficult to justify a system by which distinction in a profession is determined by a government minister.

Each year about 500 barristers (and a few solicitors who specialise in advocacy) apply to be made a QC (or to "take silk"). About 70 applicants are successful, receiving letters patent confirming that they are "learned in the law" and conferring the right to sit in the front row in court. There may be other incidental benefits: the 1979 Royal Commission on Legal Services suggested that "some support their applications for silk with medical certificates emphasising the need for a reduction in their workload".

Sir William Holdsworth explained in *A History of English Law* that Elizabeth I appointed the first Queen's Counsel, including Francis Bacon, to assist the attorney-general in giving legal advice to the monarch. During the 18th century, selection as a Queen's (or King's) Counsel became, as Lord Watson suggested in a Privy Council judgment in 1897, "in the nature of an honour or dignity", a recognition of "professional eminence". In 1920 the last remaining historical link with the original purpose of the honour was removed: a KC no longer had to obtain permission before accepting a brief to appear against the Crown. Today the only link with the monarch is that newly appointed silks are invited to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace.

David Pannick QC

The system of appointment of silks has been greatly improved in recent years. Decisions are no longer made by reference to irrelevant factors, as at the beginning of the 19th century when Lord Eldon is said to have delayed the appointment of Brougham and Denman because they had acted for Queen Caroline. The procedure has been made more open, with wider consultation, and with published criteria for selection, so removing some of the more objectionable features of a system memorably described in 1992 by the then Chairman of the Bar, Gareth Williams, QC (now Lord Williams of Mostyn, a minister in the Home Office), as based on "the Franz Kafka school of business management".

Mistakes are still made, both in appointing unworthy candidates and in rejecting meritorious applicants. Happily, however, the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) has avoided any repetition of the 1993 disaster when two counsel with the same surname applied for silk, one was successful and one unsuccessful, and each was sent the letter intended for the other.

Andrew Dismore, a Labour MP, is leading a campaign to abolish the rank of Queen's Counsel. He contends that it is an "anachronistic distinction" that serves only to "give lawyers more money" at public expense, because it is the State that pays the cost of administering the appointments system. There are no "Queen's Dentists", so why should there be Queen's Counsel?

Lawyers, and the public, should oppose any suggestion of abolishing a mark of expertise that assists solicitors and clients to identify those barristers who are capable of handling the more difficult cases and that helps the LCD when assessing candidates for judicial office. Mr Dismore's complaint that some of those chosen are not up to the job simply recognises the universal truth that any system which depends on human judgment will inevitably involve mistakes — even, on rare occasions, in the selection of MPs. Concern about the higher fees charged by QCs ignores the inevitability in a market economy that the best barristers will be in greater demand and will charge accordingly. As to Mr Dismore's complaint about the expense of administering the system, the Bar Council has agreed in principle to bear that burden.

Though the rank of QC should not be abolished, there is a strong case for removing the role of a government department in the making of appointments. The Bar values its independence. It is, then, difficult to justify a system by which promotion to a senior status is dependent on the advice of civil servants and the decision of a politician, however wide the consultation. The Bar itself should decide the relevant policies, criteria and procedures, and should create an appointments panel consisting of eminent lawyers and distinguished non-lawyers to determine which applications should be approved. The rank of Queen's Counsel could and should be replaced by a rank of Senior Counsel.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Employees under surveillance

The monitoring of staff needs regulation, says **Alison Clarke**

STREET surveillance and television monitors in shops are part of modern life. But when an employer uses such means to watch staff without their knowledge, the law surrounding it becomes murky.

In a recent case, Tom Spamer, the Unison branch secretary at Leeds Metropolitan University, represented two cleaners and a security officer in disciplinary hearings after they were monitored by hidden cameras installed by the university. His members found out about the surveillance only after they were arrested and suspended from work for alleged drug-dealing. Mr Spamer said that no evidence was found to support the allegations. The university said only that it "had used covert cameras on three occasions since they became available in 1995. On each occasion, they have been used after strong *prima facie* evidence of illegal activity on university premises and on two occasions on the advice of the police."

Such covert surveillance can damage working relationships, according to Mike Emmott, an employment adviser with the Institute of Personnel and Development. He is critical of employers who do not tell staff that they are being watched . . . although most forms of electronic monitoring are legitimate.

Does new technology invade privacy?

In 1997 the European Court ruled that under the European Convention on Human Rights, Alison Halford, a senior police officer, had her right to privacy infringed by her employer's interception of private telephone calls that she made from her office.

But Michael Ford, a barrister who recently wrote a report on surveillance and privacy at work for the Institute of Employment Rights, is sceptical about application of the Convention in the workplace. He says: "It would not be safe to rely on the incorporation of the [Convention] to offer protection against anything other than the most blatant forms of infringement of privacy at work, not least because the term 'privacy' is so ill-defined . . The more workers are subject to constant intrusive surveillance, the harder it becomes to contend that they have a reasonable expectation of privacy."

The law cannot embrace all the issues to which surveillance may give rise. What is acceptable in one workplace — CCTV for the protection of transport workers, for example — might be intrusive in another. Despite these caveats, Mr Ford does not think that the law is generally powerless. "Legislation can address specific problems and specific practices which infringe aspects of autonomy," he says. "The Data Protection Act 1998 is a welcome example, extending the opportunities for workers and their unions to find out what information is being kept on them and how it is being used."

Collective bargaining is, Mr Ford contends, the best way of regulating surveillance with a little help from the law. But he believes that employers will continue to have a more or less unconstrained right to introduce new surveillance technologies in the workplace.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL — *Steuart & Francis*











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The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons to serve as Assistant Recorders in England and Wales from 1 April 2000.

Assistant Recorders are expected to sit judicially for at least 20 days a year. They are usually authorised to sit in the Crown Court in the first instance, and may later be authorised to sit also in the county courts. In a very small number of cases, the Lord Chancellor may authorise an Assistant Recorder to sit in the county courts only.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or the county courts for a period of ten years and should normally be aged between 35 and 53 on 1 April 2000.

The Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, and further information for applications, is available by telephoning 0171 210 1481/0630 (voicemail outside office hours) or by writing to:

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Judicial Group Division 1
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6QW
(e-mail: jag.lcdhq@gtnet.gov.uk)

The estimated number of vacancies will not be settled until much later in the process. However, vacancies are expected to arise on all Circuits.

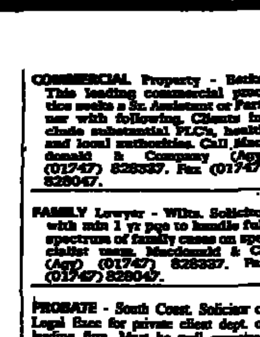
Each applicant may apply in respect of one Circuit only and completed application forms must be returned by noon on the following dates:

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The Cayman Islands are a British Crown Colony in the West Indies located 450 miles south of Miami, Florida. A successful offshore financial centre and popular tourist destination with a population of 36,000 the Islands enjoy one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

The Law School is an affiliated institution of the University of Liverpool with a Faculty of six Lecturers and an enrolment of approximately 90 students.

Applicants should have a good law degree, a professional or postgraduate qualification in law and previous relevant experience, teaching or in practice. Experience in Land Law, Equity and Trusts and Banking Law or Intellectual Property Law would be an asset, as would a record of research and publication.

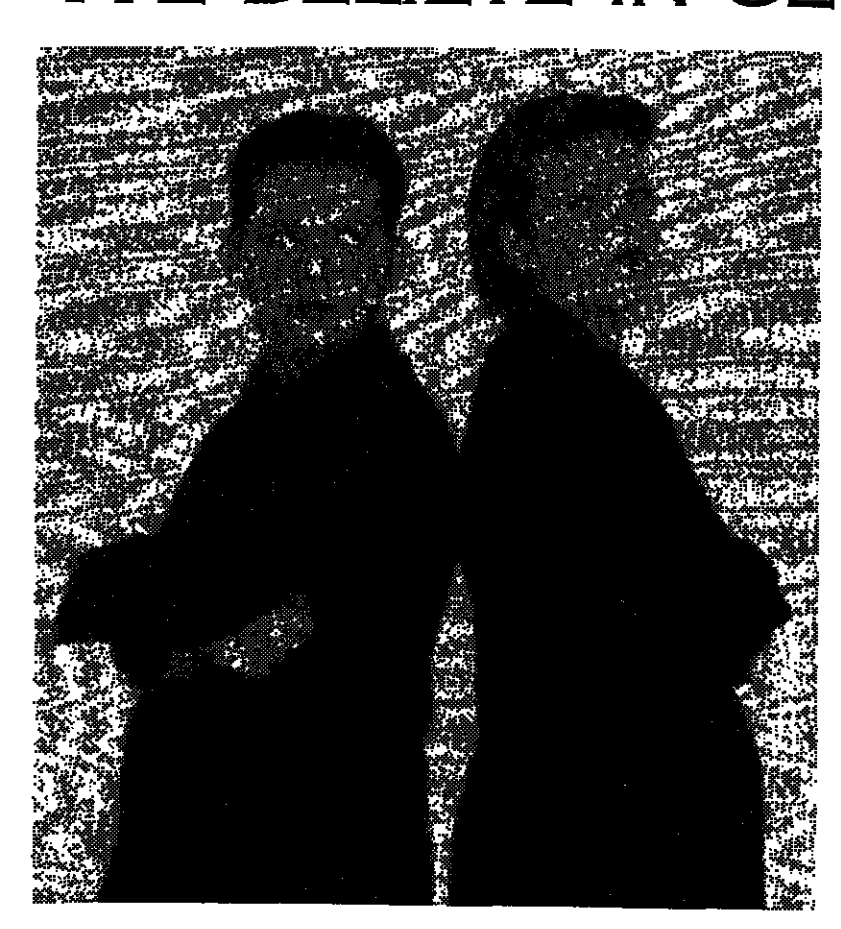
Salary will be in the range of CI$ 42,768 - CI$ 53,412 per annum tax-free (CI$1 = US$1.20). In addition, a Contracted Officers Supplement of 15% is paid with salary. Benefits include air passages and medical care. Appointment will be on a two-year contract.

Application forms, together with job description and recruitment notes are available from: The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE. Tel: 0171 491 7779.

Completed application forms with a curriculum vitae should be returned by 23rd April 1999.

THE KEY ISSUES FOR CLIFFORD CHANCE

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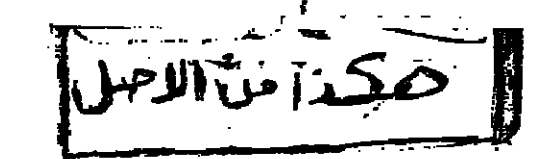
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Closing date for applications is 20th April 1999.

CLIFFORD CHANCE



Time to get to grips with late payers

Henrietta Lake says small firms are still facing problems despite publication of worst offenders

The naming and shaming of public companies last week in league tables showing how long it took them to pay their bills was a useful step towards improving the culture of late payment that grips the UK and cripples so many businesses.

Small and medium-sized firms, 6,000 of which went to the wall last year because of late payment, are being encouraged to refer to the tables before they start doing business with a new customer.

The fact that so many companies, such as Bovis Homes and Staveley Industries to name but two, have been so eager to justify their poor ranking and explain away their payment delays shows that the Federation of Small Businesses, which published the tables, is succeeding in putting late payment of debts higher up the agenda of larger quoted companies.

However, the companies, over 6,000 of them, that should really be hanging their heads in shame are the ones not in the league table at all. Since March 1997, companies have been obliged to disclose in their annual report the average time it takes them to pay their bills, but companies such as Tesco, Zeneca, GEC and Glaxo were nowhere to be seen.

The league tables also aim to reinforce the new legislation on late payment, which gives small firms with fewer than 50 employees the right to charge interest on late payment.

However, Andrew Godfrey, of Grant Thornton, the accountant, said: "The late payment legislation is frankly an irrelevance."

He added: "In order to tackle the problem better, smaller companies need to pay more attention to their procedures."

Research has shown that over one third of small and medium-sized companies do not have contracts with the people they do business with.

Peter Rowe, chairman of the Institute of Credit Management (ICM), said: "If you haven't got a contract that includes payment terms, how can you possibly expect people to pay you on time?"

Discussion of the payment terms should be part of the initial negotiation over price and delivery with the customer.

For goods and services that are paid for quickly, companies might consider charging a lower price.

"Make payment terms and stick to them. Invoice quickly and accurately after delivery," said Mr Rowe.

Appollonius Nooten-Boom, managing director of Hean Studios, which makes gold and platinum hinges for jewellery, says most of his bills are paid late. However, the Herefordshire family business, which has 16 employees and turnover of £2.3 million, uses a surcharge to spur clients to action. He says: "I find that the surcharge of 2 per cent on invoices which are a week late usually brings in an influx of cheques."

Mr Rowe still recommends the traditional credit check before starting business.

Experts also give warning of the danger in overselling. Many firms are now involving their salespeople in the collection of debt and not paying their sales commission until the money is in the bank.

BT runs a course on how to conduct credit management over the telephone, and The Better Payment Practice Group is to launch a series of nationwide seminars on credit management in June. They say it is important to find out the name of the person that authorises the cheques and to try to get to know them.

FSB: 0171-233 7900
BPP seminars: 0171-369 9333
ICM: 01780-722 900



WEBSITE: www.payontime.co.uk
www.bt.co.uk







Appollonius Nooten-Boom says using a surcharge usually brings an influx of cheques

IN BRIEF

Retail start-ups at nine-year low

■ Start-ups in the retail sector are at their lowest level for nine years, according to the latest research from Barclays Bank. Increased competition, high overheads and falling consumer confidence are collectively making this sector unattractive to potential entrepreneurs, the bank says.

Smaller retailers have experienced a continual fall in sales, with a decline of 15 per cent between 1998 and 1990. This is in sharp contrast to larger retailers, who have seen a 36 per cent rise in sales in the same period.

Dun & Bradstreet, the credit reference agency, added to the gloom by reporting a 21 per cent rise in business failures in the first three months of this year, compared with the same quarter of last year.

■ **An early warning is being sounded by accountants to employers concerning the administrative burdens of the new working families tax credit, which will be introduced next year. Horwath Clark Whitehill is alerting employers that they have one year to prepare for the administrative burden. From April 2000, it will be the employer's responsibility to pay the new tax credits to employees, together with wages and salaries.**

■ Manchester Business School has launched its annual Entrepreneurship Project, which gives companies and individuals the chance to tap into the talents of managers on the school's MBA programme. These managers will help to research markets, produce a business plan and identify how best to set up and resource a venture. Contact Kate Todd on 0161-275 6535.

■ Lloyds and NatWest have extended their services to small businesses. Lloyds has launched a new Internet banking site that has no set-up fee and a monthly charge of £5 plus the cost of phone calls. For details, go to: www.lloydsbank.co.uk. NatWest has extended its telephone direct banking service, now open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 0845-603 0110.

Varied past is a help

By Henrietta Lake

THE capacity to turn ideas into money does not necessarily come from dedicating a life to one profession.

Many entrepreneurs, such as Howard Hodgson, who went from undertaking to cigarette lighters, have enjoyed varied careers that have contributed to their success.

Philip Stanley, founder of Nationwide Cellular Fit, and an entrant to the Entrepreneur of the Year competition, believes that his experiences in different professions have helped him to understand his customers and to produce a sought-after product. Before setting up NCF, which installs mobile telephones into cars, vans and lorries and has a turnover of £8 million, he was a fireman, a double-glazing salesman, a plumber, a nightclub owner and an antiques dealer.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR®

However, in 1990 he spotted an opportunity installing car phones and set up NCF at his home in Colchester, Essex, achieving £1 million turnover in the first year. NCF now installs 85,000 phones a year and employs 90 full-time staff and 160 contract engineers. After three years, it turned to the London Enterprise Agency for help in financing its rapid growth. The agency put NCF in touch with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, which helped to attract venture-capital backing.

The dynamic growth of the firm is largely down to its founder's irreverant approach to business: "I'm not a details man. I try to concentrate on the strategy and have a great team that mops up after me."

Mr Stanley prides himself on being a great motivator of staff, even walking round the office asking people if they were "smiling on the phone" to customers, handing them £5 every time they did so.

Application forms for Entrepreneur of the Year are available on 0845-604 1012. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves or be nominated. All applications must be in by April 30.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.eoy.co.uk

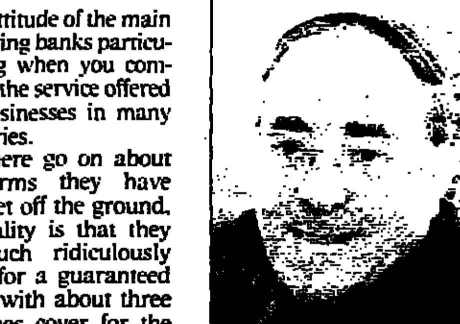


ERIC PEARCE, a retired businessman living in Hertfordshire, acts as a "business angel" and adviser to local small businesses. He says small firms deserve a better service from their banks.

"I find the attitude of the main British clearing banks particularly galling when you compare it with the service offered to small businesses in many other countries.

"Banks here go on about all the firms they have helped to get off the ground, but the reality is that they lend at such ridiculously high rates for a guaranteed fast return with about three or four times cover for the amount borrowed.

"I've done business abroad and been very impressed by the different attitude adopted there. The American and many European banks invest in start-ups and stay with the business, retaining part of the share capital, or give long-term low-interest loans."



Pearce: loan rates too high

☐ *Any company that wishes to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.*

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

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MEDIA

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MINING

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OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Dinkie Heel, Walker Greenbank, Clive Thompson.

Economics: UK Engineering Employers Federation business trends survey (Q1); UK Confederation of British Industry quarterly service sector survey; UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders new car registrations (March).

TOMORROW

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: James Beattie, Clinton Cards, Dewhirst Group, Moss Bros Group, Oasis Stores.

Economics: UK Halifax house price survey (March); UK industrial/manufacturing output (February); UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply service sector survey (March); UK provisional MO (March); UK official reserves (end-March); Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee two-day meeting begins.

THURSDAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Policy Master, Laird Group, Silentnight Holdings, Swallowfield, Tempus Group.

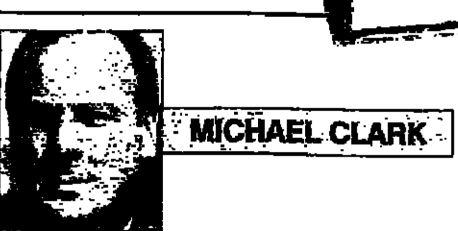
Economics: UK housing starts (three months to February); Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee rate decision.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: none scheduled.

Economics: no UK data scheduled.

COMPANIES — MICHAEL CLARK

Moss Bros frayed at edges

MOSS BROS: Final results from the Cecil Gee, Blazer and Savoy Taylors Guild menswear group tomorrow are likely to reflect the fierce competition in the high street for the past year.

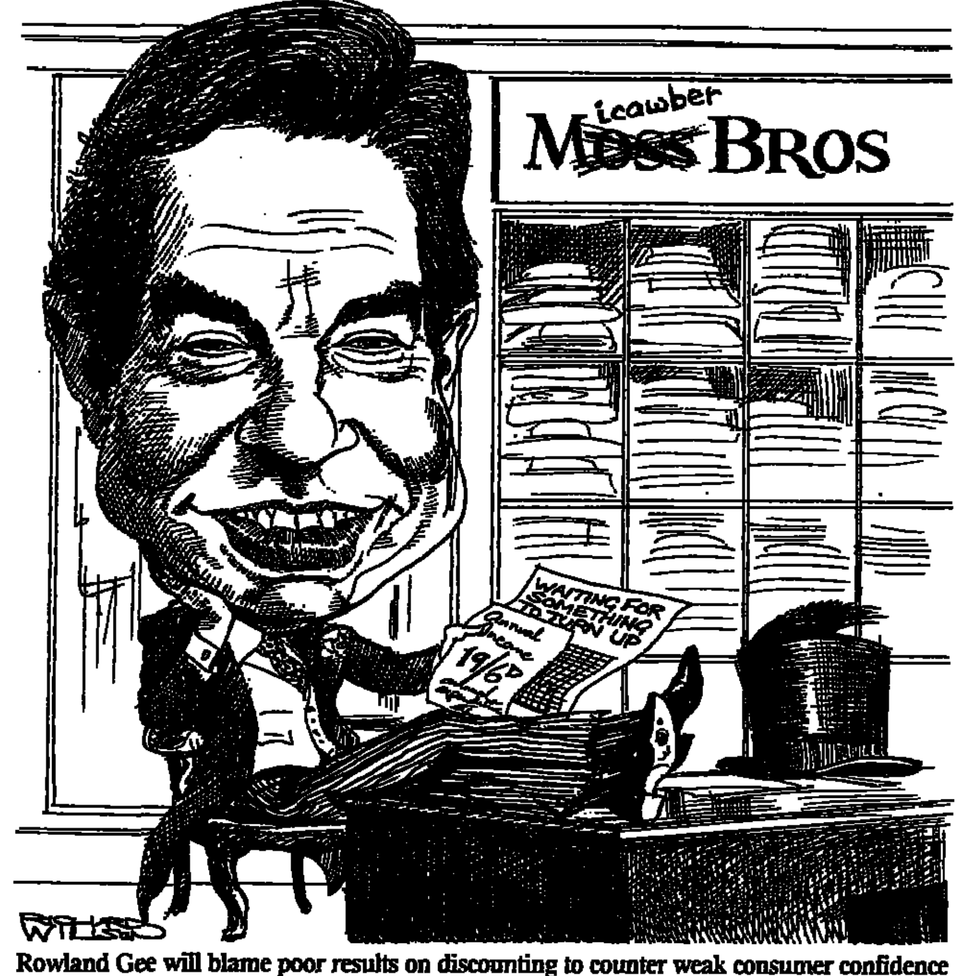
Brokers are forecasting a small downturn in pre-tax profits on last year's £19.6 million. Estimates range from £16.2 million to £17.5 million.

In October Rowland Gee, chief executive, reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £5.79 million to £5.67 million. This was achieved despite an increase in sales from £61.25 million to £66.28 million. The setback was blamed on heavy discounting of lines during the summer because of the drop in consumer confidence, poor weather and competitive pressures.

Moss Bros now commands 13 per cent of the market in men's suits, just a couple of percentage points behind Marks & Spencer.

The group continues to press ahead with expansion plans. A drop in rents on new leases enabled the group to open nine stores in the second half compared with only four in the first six months.

The dividend should grow from 6p to 6.3p



Rowland Gee will blame poor results on discounting to counter weak consumer confidence

LAIRD GROUP: Final results on Thursday are unlikely to make pleasant reading. Pretax profits are set to fall from £69.6 million to about £40 million with the dividend pegged at 14.4p.

The group continues to lack control over too many businesses, says Mark Little at BT Alex Brown, the broker. He reckons the results will be adversely affected by delayed model launches, higher start-up costs in Germany and Spain, increased pricing pressure and falling PC sales.

The current year should see an improved automotive market and the bottoming-out of the destocking in the PC market. But the fire that occurred in the German extrusion plant will mean that the year-end accounting will be complicated by asset write-offs. The main focus of attention will be on what is happening with pricing in the core seals operation. "Price deflation for all of the car seal suppliers has been brutal but there comes a point where the manufacturers must recognise this and allow the suppliers to make decent returns in order to be able to reinvest in research and development and capital projects," says Mr Little.

SILENTNIGHT: A drop in consumer confidence during the final quarter will have left its mark when final results are recorded on Thursday.

Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at about £16 million, compared with £16.6 million last time, while earnings will be 24.2p a share, against 24.9p.

That said, the group's attempts at reducing costs and evidence of a recovery in the current year should offer hope to shareholders. A strong first-half performance that saw profits grow 22 per cent will have given way to a sticky second half that saw high street spending slow considerably.

A small improvement in bed sales is expected at Rest Assured, but on a like-for-like basis sales are likely to be flat at best. The drop in sales at its cabinet division is likely to have accelerated in the second half.

The cost of closing its factory in Barnsley and subsequent trading losses are likely to be in the region of £3 million.

Some progress is expected in the US and Germany, but the group has already made the decision to sell its American bed business to the National Bedding Company of Chicago.

CLINTON CARDS: The greeting cards retailer is expected to report pre-tax profits of £14 million against £7.7 million. Earnings per share of 15.9p are forecast, compared with 9.3p last time, from which a 4p dividend is expected, against 3p last time.

OASIS STORES: After a difficult year in 1997, the retailer has experienced a much better 1998. This has been reflected both in strong first-half figures and a confident trading statement. Rowan Morgan, an analyst at Teather & Greenwood, predicts pre-tax profits of £14 million, up from £10.4 million. Earnings should grow from 13.1p to 18p, with the dividend set at 8.3p against 7.5p.

Japanese firms show first signs of optimism

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE corporate sentiment improved slightly in the latest quarter for the first time in almost two years, a central bank survey showed yesterday.

But business confidence was still low and the survey pointed to a wave of corporate restructuring hitting the economy as large firms predicted a 9.4 per cent drop in capital investment in the year that started on April 1. Firms of all sizes said they had too many workers.

The closely watched index for large manufacturers in the Bank of Japan's quarterly *tankan* survey rose to minus 47 from minus 49 in December. It was the first increase since the second quarter of 1997. Their non-manufacturing cousins recorded a similar rise, with that index improving to minus 34 from minus 39.

The number is the percentage of firms reporting a favourable environment minus those that see it as unfavourable. When negative, it means pessimistic firms outnumber optimistic ones.

Big manufacturers and non-manufacturers also predicted sentiment would rise further by the next survey in June, forecasting minus 38 and minus 27 respectively. Peter Morgan, a senior economist at HSBC Securities, said: "There are signs that things are stabilising, but it is still going to be a very slow process. The overhangs in capacity, employment and inventories are still quite large."

Authorities were also cautious. "The *tankan* shows that there are brighter signs but we still need to be vigilant on the economy," said Hiromu Nonaka, the Government's top spokesman.

The Bank of Japan said the survey in itself did not provide sufficient data to judge whether the economy had hit bottom.

The survey had little lasting impact on financial markets. Tokyo stocks rallied more than 2 per cent in the morning but ended the day up just 0.27 per cent at 16,334.78. The *tankan* failed to lift the yen, which slithered to Y121.45 to the dollar in late trading in Tokyo, down from Y120.43 in the morning.

Technology to boost retailers

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THE new millennium is set to be a boom time for electrical retailers as a vast number of new products are launched on to a market that is already worth £12.7 billion a year.

The Dixons Stores Group, which owns Dixons, Currys, PC World, The Link and the Freeserve Internet service, controls 27 per cent of the market, up 1 per cent on a year earlier, and is likely to benefit most from the boom, according to Verdict, the retail consultancy. The group has a retail brand in every growth market as well as "product authority and geographical presence".

Sales of minidiscs, DVDs (digital versatile discs), digital televisions and other products using new technology should take off this year. Video console and software sales will benefit from the launch of the Sega Dreamcast and Sony Playstation 2. In personal computers the launch of the Pentium III chip should help those retailers suffering from the price falls that have hit that market. Incursions by Tesco and Asda, the supermarket chains, into the PC market have also made life difficult for traditional electronics retailers in the past year.

Some casualties can be expected among high street retailers of mobile telephones once that market, boosted recently by the success of pay-as-you-talk phones, reaches saturation.

Verdict says retailers need to work harder to differentiate themselves from rivals: "The vast majority are pitched at the middle-mass market. Product, service and store environments differ little. Consumers will need to be reassured and to trust the retailer, particularly when it comes to big-ticket, new technology products."

Bank meetings likely to continue interest rate cuts

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

ALL eyes will be on the two interest rate meetings on Thursday with both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank considered likely to cut rates.

Few clues are likely before the meeting of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee to any changes in the thinking of its members. The March Purchasing Managers services survey on Wednesday should provide some interest with the index having shown signs of recovery in the past month or so. Analysts expect this trend to continue, but whether it will be sufficiently strong to persuade the Bank to delay further rate cuts is doubtful.

Also on Wednesday the February industrial production figures are expected to confirm that the manufacturing sector remains mired in recession. While the forward-looking manufacturing surveys are now suggesting the worst is over for the sector, this has yet to make itself felt in the official data.

The City consensus is that manufacturing production will fall by 0.3 per cent across the month, leaving output 1.6 per cent lower than in the same month last year. Overall industrial production will also decline at an annual rate of 0.4 per cent.

All the significant eurozone data will arrive after the ECB decision on Thursday and will therefore have more relevance to what happens next. The February unemployment figures on Friday are expected to show no change with the rate at 10.6 per cent. Consumer and business confidence indices, which are also published on Friday, are both expected to show a modest deterioration but not to the extent of prompting the ECB to think afresh.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Crunch time in Olivetti bid for Telecom Italia

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

OLIVETTI'S bitter battle for control of Telecom Italia will come to a head this week with shareholders of both companies due to vote on crucial strategy measures.

The meetings could lead to the collapse of Olivetti's $65 billion (£40 billion) hostile takeover bid by the weekend, but, equally, they could pave the way for the suitor's success.

What is probably the most critical meeting will take place in Turin on Saturday, when Telecom shareholders will consider key planks of the defence plan proposed by Franco Bernabe, the company's managing director.

These involve the conversion of savings shares to ordinary shares and a 10 per cent share buyback.

The third element of Mr Bernabe's defence strategy — a takeover bid for Telecom Italia Mobile (TIM), the mobile subsidiary, pitched at €6.84 (£4.60) per share — will be put to shareholders at a meeting on either April 28 or 29.

But Mr Bernabe must first muster a quorum representing 30 per cent of the company's capital in order to call the meeting. It was unclear at the last count whether this would be achieved.

By the time Telecom shareholders gather, their counterparts at Tecnost, the Olivetti subsidiary being used for the bid, would already have voted on the company's proposed €12 billion capital increase at a meeting on Tuesday.

However, the move, which is being paid for by Olivetti with Europe's biggest corporate bond issue, is just a formality given Olivetti's 97 per cent stake in Tecnost.

On Wednesday Olivetti shareholders will be asked to approve a crucial five trillion lire (£1.7 billion) capital increase.

This is the same day that Roberto Colaninno, Olivetti's managing director, will be required to explain his threat to withdraw the bid if Telecom shareholders approve any part of the defence package.

Consob, Italy's stock market regulator, has also asked Mr Colaninno to explain how Olivetti would make such a decision and to reveal the minimum stake it would accept.

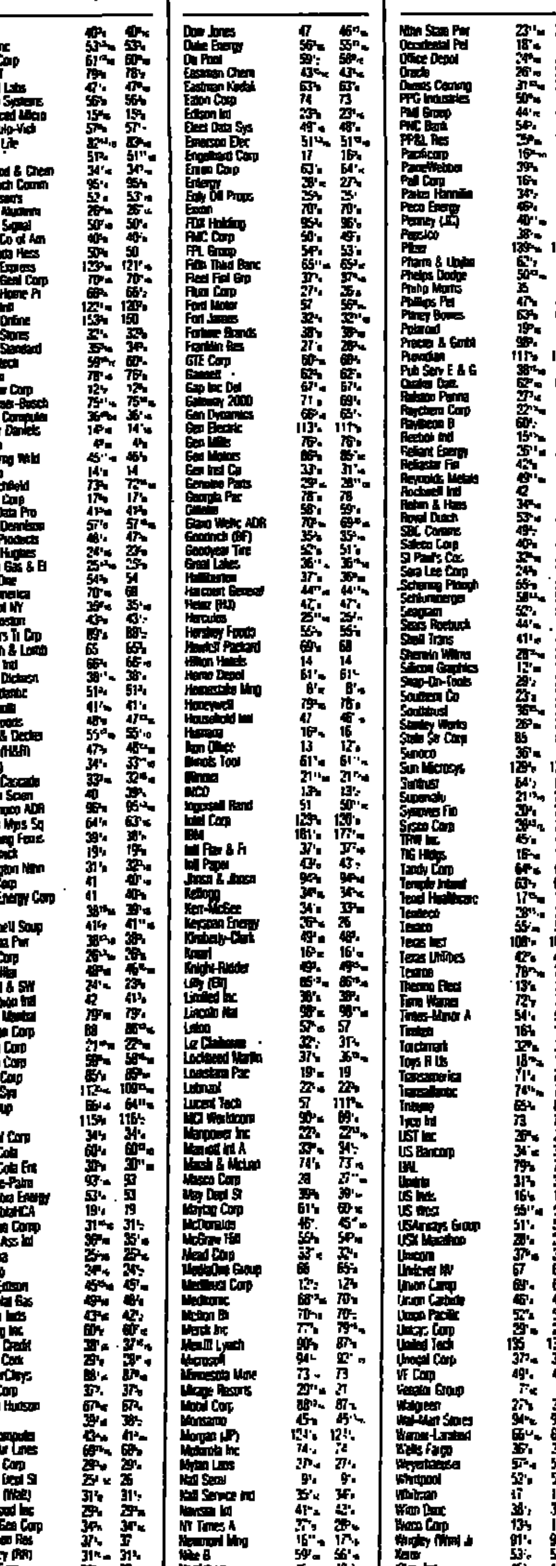
Olivetti has said that it is bidding for at least 67 per cent of Telecom.

WALL STREET

SHARES were higher as investors returned from the three-day Easter weekend in a buying mood, encouraged by a jobs report that showed little threat of inflation.

Advancing shares led declining issues by five to four. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 139.03 points at 9,971.54.

London and other European markets were closed for Easter Monday.



CORPORATE PROFILE: P&O

THE FACTS

P&O market capitalisation: £5.762 billion.

Sales: £5.912 billion in 1998.

Pre-tax profits: £368.9 million in 1998.

Overview: P&O is a diversified business taking in ferries, cruises, ports and logistics, cargo shipping, construction and property. The group has recently announced a restructuring programme that will eventually limit it to the first three activities.

THE BOARD

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, 64, chairman. Is an Elder Brother of Trinity House.
Sir Bruce McPhail, 59, managing director. An MBA of Harvard Business School. Formerly with Price Waterhouse and Hill Samuel.
Tim Harris, 51, assistant managing director since 1995, responsible for cruises and chief executive of P&O Nedlloyd.
Graeme Dunlop, 56, responsible for ferries.
Michael Gradon, 39, legal director and company secretary.
Tim Harding, 58, responsible for property activities.
Richard Hain, 63, chairman and managing director of P&O Australia.
Sir Frank Lampl, 72, chairman of Bovis.
Nick Luff, 32, the finance director.
Peter Ratcliffe,. 51, president of Princess Cruises.
Robert Woods, 52, managing director of P&O Nedlloyd.

P&O's non-executive directors are:

Lord Hambro, 68. Senior non-executive director. Chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange and of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses.
Peter Foy, 58. Former managing director of McKinsey Co (UK) and former chairman of Baring Brothers International. Director of PepsiCo and of Omnicom.
Rodney Galpin, 67. Chairman of Alpha Airports, director of Capital Shopping Centres.
Sir John Collins, 57. Chief executive of the Vestey Group, non-executive chairman of National Power, non-executive director of NM Rothschild & Sons and of Stoll Moss Theatres. Director of the London Symphony Orchestra.
Baroness Hogg, 52, chairman, London Economics.

Turning a supertanker around in mid-voyage is no overnight job. When P&O announced, a couple of weeks ago, a stern-to-bow overhaul and the sale of £2 billion of assets, the stock market responded favourably. But some questioned how long the change of direction should have taken to engineer.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company bears more history than virtually any other FTSE company. Margaret Thatcher is supposed to have declared: "It's not just a company — it's the very fabric of the Empire."

P&O's history is certainly bound up with the Empire's. The peninsula is the Iberian one; the company's two founders fought in the Napoleonic Wars, and their first trade was to and from Gibraltar. The Oriental came when they extended their trade to the eastern Mediterranean. Expansion to the true Orient came later, in time for the boom years for luxury cruiseliners in the first decades of this century.

The arrival of Boeing 707s ended that era. P&O bought into gas and bulk carriers and greatly expanded its freight shipping side, aided by a tax regime that encouraged such expansion regardless of whether it was justified commercially.

"Once the 707s arrived, the game was up. By 1970, the company, frankly, hadn't decided where it was going," recalls Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, who, since the early 1980s, has run P&O with Sir Bruce McPhail, managing director.

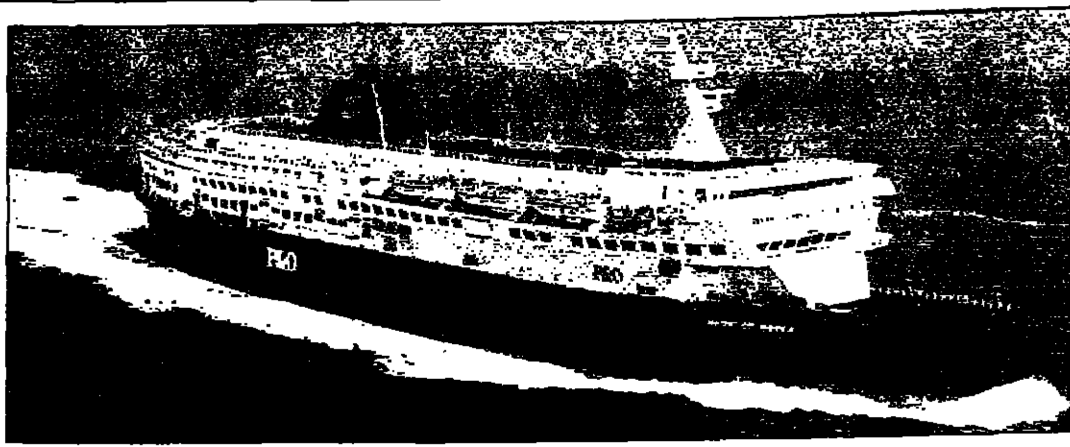
The expansion could not be justified; the shipping bubble burst and freight rates fell. Lord Sterling's first task was to see off an opportunistic bid from Trafalgar House, another big name in shipping.

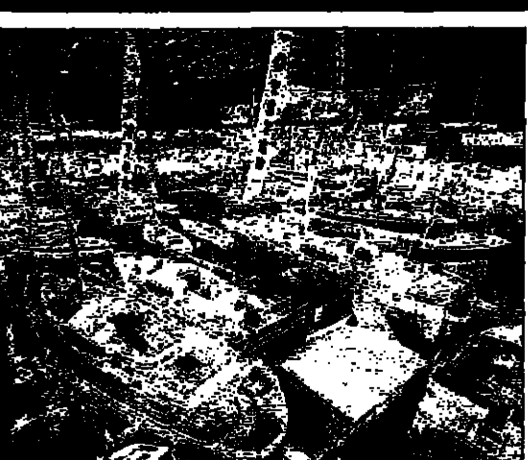
Sterling then sold the oil-trading business and the gas carriers, as well as various ancillary bits and pieces, including 20th Century Banking and Bishopsgate Insurance. "We didn't want to be in any business we didn't understand or in which anyone could pull the wool over our eyes," he says.

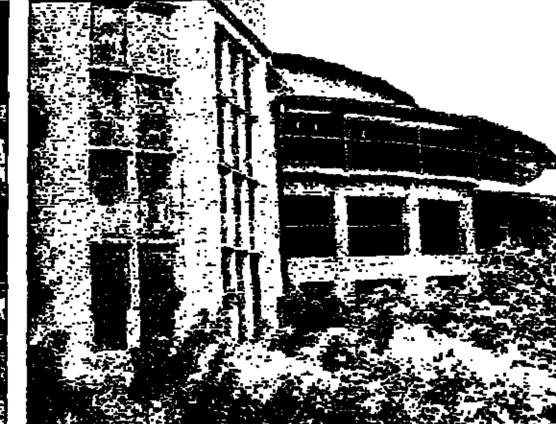
It was the start of a much tighter ship. "In practice, we have total control in financial terms on capital expenditure and we're absolutely right on top of cashflow. The top couple of hundred appointments must be approved by here," says Sterling, gesturing at P&O's Pall Mall headquarters, "or at least cleared by here."

By the start of this decade, P&O had expanded into property, construction and housebuilding, and further into shipping, by acquiring European Ferries in 1987, for example. However, City critics felt that the group was again too sprawling for its own good, at a time when conglomerates were out of favour.









P&O, where Lord Sterling is chairman, is to return to its roots and concentrate on cruises, ferries, ports and logistics. On the disposal block are Bovis Construction, manager for the building of the new Glyndebourne Opera House, and the Earls Court Olympia exhibition centre, home of the Boat Show

There was also criticism that Sterling and McPhail were insufficiently responsive to the views of big City shareholders. The shares were in the doldrums — they have underperformed the FTSE all-share index by 30 per cent over the past five years, not helped by the recession of the early 1990s, which hit industrial groups such as P&O, with its huge containerised shipping operations, especially hard.

On March 23 this year, when unveiling P&O's 1998 results, Sterling announced a return to its shipping roots. The property portfolio would be gradually sold, as would the Earls Court Olympia exhibition business — 43 acres of prime land in Central London, in the books at £180 million but worth, analysts suggest, nearer to £350 million. Alternatively, the UK investment property interests, with a book value of £650 million, could be demerged as a free-standing quoted property company.

P&O Nedlloyd, a joint venture half-owned by a Dutch shipping group in which P&O has £450 million tied up, would be floated, offering a possibility that P&O would sell all or part of its stake. The Bovis construction management business would also be floated, to follow Bovis Homes, which last year joined the stock market at £226 million.

P&O shares rose 5 per cent on news of this unbundling. The sale proceeds, even before anything from the Nedlloyd float, could total £2 billion. This would allow shareholders who had stayed in while the shares were underperforming to be rewarded for their patience, possibly with a share buyback or a special dividend.

The disposals would slim P&O back to its three core businesses of ports, ferries and cruises, the last being by far the biggest, and would leave it with no borrowings. "That makes absolutely clear what the company is about," says Sterling. The new focus, it is hoped, will mean a rerating of the shares close to the high levels, in some cases 25 times current earnings, enjoyed by "pure" shipping companies in the US and elsewhere.

All three core divisions earn 15 per cent return on capital employed. "Where's the company going?" asks Sterling. "When the mists of what's happening in the Far East start to clear, and some of them are starting to already, there will be an increase in world trade in years to come.

"This leads to creation of a massive increase in wealth in world terms. People have the time as well as the increased wealth and are spending it on travel. We are uniquely placed to take advantage of that."

Sterling refuses to be drawn on what P&O will do with the disposal proceeds not needed for investment in core activities. He says: "Once we've brought this in, we would have to look at whether the capital structure . . . would need to be addressed. Do you buy in shares? Could you give the money back to shareholders?"

However, he insists that one big shareholder has already suggested that if P&O can keep investing and earning 15 per cent, it would sooner the company held onto the money.

The City's concern is not the wisdom of the proposed moves but the length of time they took to be decided on once it became clear that P&O was becalmed. There is also a question over what should happen to the property assets: property shares currently trade at a discount to assets. However, a gradual sale would take much longer to benefit investors than a demerger. It is, the stock market accepts, impossible yet to say which course would be best.

Sterling is unrepentant about the time taken to decide to return P&O to its maritime roots. In the 1990s recession, he says, P&O spent billions of pounds on the cruise business to compete with the best in the world. "It would have been impossible to do that without the real estate side — this was the bank that funded it," he said.

"The real estate side is no longer the essential it was in providing the streams of income needed. But we got no brownie points whatsoever for the success of the real estate division; even though it's helped us build the company, I don't think its made one jot of difference to our share price."

There remain some profits still to come from existing property developments, especially in the US. By book value, P&O has £1.1 billion in investment property and £350 million in sites to develop.

Sterling denies any disenchantment with the City, but says: "We're having to run the company and they are sitting where they are. We're just as disappointed in how the share price has been of late."

The problem, Sterling feels, is that P&O has disappointed before — this may help to explain why most analysts' break-up value exceeds its share price. In 1993 and 1994, P&O was seen as a recovery stock, a promise not fulfilled. "One isn't saying one hasn't made mistakes." Sterling says. "On the whole, one has enjoyed enormous support. We lost a certain amount for a while, though not that of our major shareholders. It looked as if we had lost a sense of direction."

However, he adds: "If you go back five years and think what the atmosphere was like . . . you would have been flogging off assets at half their present values."

At 64, Sterling might reasonably be thinking of retirement, especially after 16 years at the helm. However, he insists he will drive P&O into the next century. There are certainly no plans for a successor. "I don't think I'm decrepit yet." Sterling says. "Bruce McPhail is a superb managing director. The three key divisions are represented by senior directors on the board. The finance director is the youngest in the FTSE. The inner circle is all in place."

P&O scores well on executive pay, with Sterling's £1.1 million fitting for his experience and non-executive directors slightly underpaid, according to the Crisp consultancy. However, on ethical policy, Integrity Works questions whether business principles should be left to individual companies.

MARTIN WALLER

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"What they have done is what people have been pushing for and urging them to do for some time. Sentiment, therefore, has changed for the positive. But there's a lot riding on the speed at which they execute this. The shares are clearly standing at a substantial discount to the value of the constituent parts of the business. The market isn't giving them full value today for what they might realise tomorrow."

Stephen Clapham, Robert Fleming Securities

"The divisional split was as anticipated. The unbundling of P&O should make it easier to value the group as a whole — especially the cruise division, which will now be more easily compared to its US peer group, which trades on significantly higher multiples."

Richard Hannah, BT Alex Brown

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	5/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	9/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	5/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	8/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	72/100

[1]Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

Russia to reopen talks with IMF on foreign debt

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN officials will resume talks with an International Monetary Fund mission tomorrow as Moscow strives to secure the funding needed to meet foreign debt obligations of $17.5 billion (£11 billion) this year.

Negotiations with the IMF are expected to last about two weeks and cover technical details of policies underpinning possible new IMF credits for Russia. The IMF mission follows a visit last week by Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director.

Russia's talks with the IMF have made slow progress since last year's economic crisis torpedoed a previous loan programme.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, says new IMF credits are essential for Russia to meet its foreign debt obligations.

The Government wants new IMF credits so that it can repay about $4.5 billion which it owes the Fund itself. IMF support will also open the door to restructuring talks with other creditors.

The IMF mission is expected to complete its work before a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations on April 24.

The G7 talks will take place in Washington during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, but a decision on Russian credits by the IMF board is not expected until later.

In Moscow the IMF mission will first analyse preliminary information about Russia's first-quarter budget performance. Talks with the Finance Ministry will only begin on Friday when the mission will formulate its proposals and make comments on the information presented to it. The size of new credits will be discussed no earlier than next week.

Unions welcome task force for manufacturing

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

UNIONS yesterday welcomed government plans to set up a high-level task force to champion the interests of manufacturing.

The establishment of a task force by Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, follows persistent criticism by industry of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

High interest rates, which have contributed to the strength of the pound against other leading currencies, have been blamed by manufacturers for the loss of thousands of jobs. Exports have suffered badly as British goods have been priced out of the market.

The task force, which will be constituted later this year, is expected to feature leaders of the Trades Union Congress and senior respresentatives from the Confederation of British Industry, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Chemical Industries Association. Its formation will be preceded by a summit meeting of union leaders and captains of industry.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF union, who is likely to be invited to join the task force, welcomed its formation. He said previous governments had ignored the plight of industry and excluded unions from the formulation of economic policy.

He said: "Establishing the task force is obviously not the end of manufacturing difficulties. The value of the pound and interest rates nearly double that of the eurozone are causing many companies serious problems. But it is a significant step in the right direction and shows the Government is serious about partnership in business."

Fortune 500's seven-year hitch

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

PROFITS of the Fortune 500 companies declined for the first time in seven years in 1998 as US companies suffered the effects of the economic crisis in Asia, Russia and Latin America.

Overall, profits for the 500 fell 1.8 per cent last year, compared with 7.8 per cent earnings growth in 1997, according to *Fortune* magazine's annual listing of the largest US public companies. Revenue growth shrank to 4 per cent from 8.7 per cent in 1997 as companies found demand for their products and services stifled by the continuing financial problems overseas.



Jack Smith saw GM retain top spot for the 11th year running

While 1998 will not be remembered for its stellar profits, the magazine said, it will likely mark the beginning of the end of the dominance of blue chips such as General Motors and Coca-Cola. Younger companies, such as Microsoft, Cisco Systems and Dell are wielding more influence in corporate America, Fortune said.

Fortune said that 1998 "will probably be considered a watershed year, the year when the new economy fundamentally parted ways with the old and high-tech consolidated its role as the driving force behind the growth of big business".

GM, where Jack Smith is chairman and chief executive officer, remained No 1 on the list — which ranks companies according to revenue — for the eleventh year running. GM had $161.3 billion in revenue, followed by Ford with $144.4 billion, Wal-Mart with $139.2 billion, Exxon with $101.7 billion and General Electric with $100.5 billion.

Cisco jumped 61 places from 253 to 192, while Dell Computer shot up from 125th place to 78th.

Other high-tech companies that have become darlings of Wall Street recently have not yet made the list. While the stock prices of the online auctioneer eBay, Internet service provider AtHome and online bookseller Amazon.com have given them market capitalisations surpassing many Fortune 500 firms, they have yet to generate significant revenues, let alone profits. The company that ranked 500th, the container maker Ball Corp, had nearly $2.9 billion in revenue.

Takeover talk is foundation of Revlon's recovery



Perelman: silent on rumours

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

TAKEOVER speculation sent shares in Ron Perelman's debt-laden Revlon cosmetics business soaring more than 50 per cent in a two-day buying frenzy recently, but a suitor is yet to emerge.

In fact, a week after the sudden purple patch for Revlon's struggling share price, it remains uncertain whether Mr Perelman's 83 per cent stake in the company is even up for sale. Regardless, the surge in Revlon shares has added nearly $400 million (£240 million) to Mr Perelman's fortunes, at least on paper.

Speculative buying pushed daily turnover of Revlon's shares to 30 times the average daily level of the past three months and the shares have stayed well above their previous depressed levels.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group that makes Elizabeth Arden cosmetics, and America's Procter & Gamble were touted as potential buyers but both refused to comment on the speculation. Shiseido, the Japanese group, was also said to be interested in Revlon to help it to break into the US market. Unilever remains the favourite to start any takeover bid.

Although no buyer has announced a bid, that is no reason to think that Revlon is not in play. Shares in companies in which Mr Perelman has a big stake have a habit of wildly gyrating in the days before critical announcements. It has happened at Revlon, Consolidated Cigar, Sunbeam and Coleman in the past year. There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing by Mr Perelman.

In spite of the interest Mr Perelman has made no effort to confirm or deny the rumours that Revlon is in play.

Revlon has certainly not been Mr Perelman's best investment. He bought it for $1.7 billion in 1985 in a highly leveraged purchase using funds raised by Michael Milken, who pleaded guilty to securities fraud five years later.

While much of the stock market has soared recently, Revlon's stock has been a distinct underperformer. Its sales are slipping and it is saddled with considerable debt.

Revlon is struggling to lift its profits in the crowded make-up industry in the US, while it tries to cope with economic problems in overseas markets. It gets more than a third of its income from outside America, so currency falls have added to the sales woes in Asia, Russia and South America.

The cosmetics company recently added Sarah O'Hare, the Australian model, to its stable of corporate spokesmen. It already boasts Cindy Crawford, the supermodel, and large-size model Emme. In January, with profits slumping 82 per cent, Revlon announced 1,000 to 1,200 job cuts, equal to 7 per cent of its workforce.

Mr Perelman is generally considered New York's richest resident, but his stock holdings were pounded last year and dropped in value by about $2.5 billion. It left him worth about $3.5 billion.

Despite financial strife at Revlon, his investments have recovered some of their lost ground this year. After this week's gains, Revlon has virtually doubled from its 1998 low, but remains less than half the value it was at its peak.

Regulator wants gas power station moratorium lifted

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CALLUM McCARTHY, the energy regulator, has attacked the Government's block on new gas power stations, calling for its immediate removal.

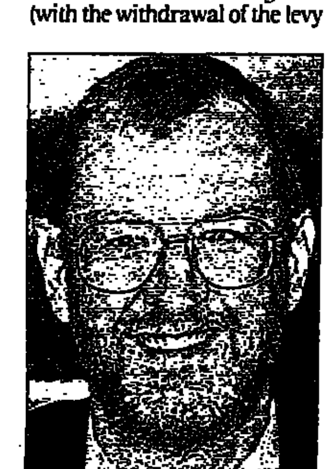
Mr McCarthy, who is pursuing a strong campaign against profiteering by the generators, blames the moratorium for hampering competition in the industry. It was introduced to protect the market for coal as the mining industry lurched towards a massive decline.

He told *The Times*: "Anyone with the statutory responsibilities given to me cannot be a supporter of the moratorium ... I would like to see it removed forthwith because we have a duty to promote competition, and this is an impediment to competition."

The block, while helping coal, also shields the three main coal-burning generators from new competitors. Last year the Government ordered National Power and PowerGen to sell power stations in order to counter this and to stimulate competition. But Mr McCarthy has since been angered by what he considers to be gaming in the electricity market which has forced up the price of power.

The regulator, who has been overseeing the electricity industry since January, says that the generators will face quickie licence amendments to prohibit price rises if their charges do not fall. Mr McCarthy also dismissed the claims made for the generators that electricity prices have fallen. "At the moment it is manifest that we haven't got a genuinely competitive generation sector. When you look over ten years at the huge falling away in input prices and you look at what has happened to output prices, that mismatch is completely incompatible with genuine competition.

"There has been a 30 per cent fall in prices. Some seem to suggest that is something the generators have done but that fall has come from the reduction in the non-fossil fuel obligation (with the withdrawal of the levy for nuclear energy): from tighter controls on distribution and supply, and from the last of the coal contracts."

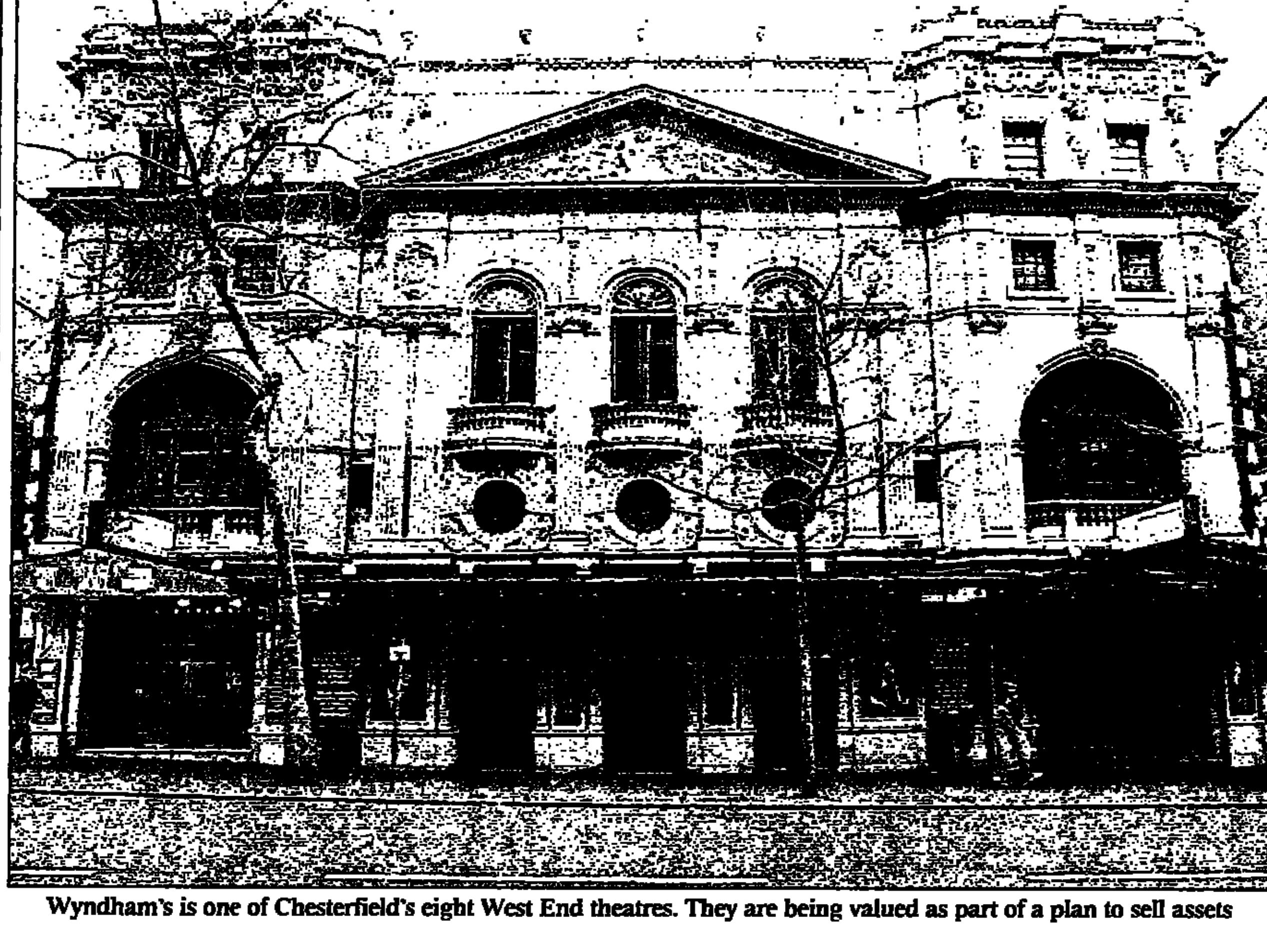


Battle: seeks reforms

Mr McCarthy is determined to push down electricity prices below the level envisaged by the Government in its energy review. When the review began it was predicted that prices could fall by 10 per cent once the electricity trading arrangements have been overhauled.

The regulator is pushing for a quick shake-up of the power market and the scrapping of the controversial electricity pool — moves ordered by John Battle, the Energy Minister, in the energy review. His keenness was sharpened by the pool's cursory treatment of a senior official from Mr McCarthy's office at a meeting earlier this year.

But he concedes that the overhaul — never likely to be easy, given the myriad of interested parties — could hit legislative delays. If the Utilities Regulation Bill goes into the next Queen's Speech then legislation will not follow until late next year. Similarly, if the moves are attempted by licence changes and the companies object and force a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry, then the process will drag on for as long, if not longer. April 2000 is the target date for the reforms.



Wyndham's is one of Chesterfield's eight West End theatres. They are being valued as part of a plan to sell assets

Chesterfield sites to be valued

BY MARTIN BARROW

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES has appointed advisers to value its entertainment division as part of a plan to sell its assets and return the proceeds to shareholders.

The group has appointed Investec to value the division, which has eight West End theatres. These include Wyndham's and the Donmar Warehouse, a theatre production company and a film and television distribution arm.

Since announcing a possible corporate restructuring in February Chesterfield has received a bid approach from Quintain Estates and Development. Quintain said it would sell all the London properties, including the entertainment division, to Benchmark Group. Roger Wingate, a former chairman of Chesterfield and now chief executive as well as its largest shareholder, has expressed an interest in bidding for the division but firm proposals have yet to be announced.

The winding-up of Chesterfield was welcomed in the City, where institutional investors have put pressure on the management of smaller property companies to consolidate. But progress has been slow, complicated by the bid approach. There has also been disquiet about the role of Robert Maxted, the former chief executive. He was expected to join GE Capital, which has agreed to acquire a £93.5 million property portfolio from Chesterfield.

At an extraordinary meeting last month the board requested more time to bring about the restructuring.

GTE to acquire wireless assets

GTE, the US telecoms company, yesterday agreed to buy about half of Ameritech's wireless properties in US Midwestern states for about $3.27 billion (£2 billion). The assets being acquired include 1.7 million subscribers, GTE said.

The acquisition involves properties that Ameritech must divest as part of its proposed merger with SBC Communications. Bell Atlantic, which has agreed to a merger of equals with GTE, has given its consent to the deal.

Late last week reports said that William Kennard, chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission, sent a letter to Ameritech and SBC expressing serious concerns about the proposed merger of the two regional telecommunications providers.

The letter reportedly suggested that the FCC would impose strict conditions in the event that SBC's proposed $56 billion acquisition of Ameritech is approved.

Online trades soar

US investors funnelled stock trades through the Internet at a record pace in the first quarter, and online trading volumes rose by up to 35 per cent to about 450,000 trades a day from the fourth quarter, according to analysts at CS First Boston. The surge in online trading volumes came despite overall market volumes rising just under 5 per cent from the fourth quarter. The rise means that Web brokers processed an average of 440,000 to 460,000 trades a day in the first quarter and continue to pick off market share from traditional brokers. Shares of online brokers jumped yesterday, with Ameri-Trade adding $6.44 to a record $69, E*Trade up $3.13 to $63 and Schwab up $3.25 to $97.

Tie Rack set to rise

Shares of Tie Rack are expected to rise today after reports that the specialist retailer is in talks with Ferria, the privately owned Italian clothing manufacturer. The companies are believed to have discussed an offer of 40p a share, valuing the business at about £25 million. The shares closed at 35½p on Thursday, the previous trading day, having plunged since their 1997 high of more than 200p.

BBC deal boosts US audience

BBC AMERICA, the subscription television channel with programmes ranging from *Ballykissangel* to *EastEnders*, has doubled its distribution in the US through a deal with DIRECTV, the leading American satellite broadcaster (Raymond Snoddy writes).

DIRECTV will broadcast the BBC subscription channel to its 4.6 million digital satellite viewers all over the US. It means that the channel, carrying a wide range of BBC entertainment, will be available in just under nine million homes.

BBC America has found it difficult to get on to US cable networks because of the growing capacity problem, but DIRECTV broadcasts a total of 185 channels.

Rupert Gavin, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, said that the DIRECTV deal was a key part of a BBC global strategy to increase its portfolio of international channels.

BBC channels are now available in some form in 225 million homes worldwide.

BBC America is distributed by Discovery Networks as part of a global alliance between the two organisations.

Companies urged to appeal against rates

BY MARTIN BARROW

COMPANIES in England and Wales could be wasting up to £3 billion a year on rate payments, according to research published today.

At present just 40 per cent of all rating assessments are subject to an appeal. Yet nearly half the rateable properties in England and Wales, with a value of more than £16 billion, could find their rates reduced on appeal, according to Fletcher King, the property and construction services group.

The firm's research is based on national statistics regarding the rateable value of all commercial property in the UK, measured against Fletcher King's own success rate in conducting rating appeals for its clients and the average reduction rate secured on appeal.

Bob Dickman, head of Fletcher King's rating division, said: "The fact that only 40 per cent of rating assessments on commercial properties are appealed in England and Wales is an astonishingly low figure when you consider the amount of money involved."

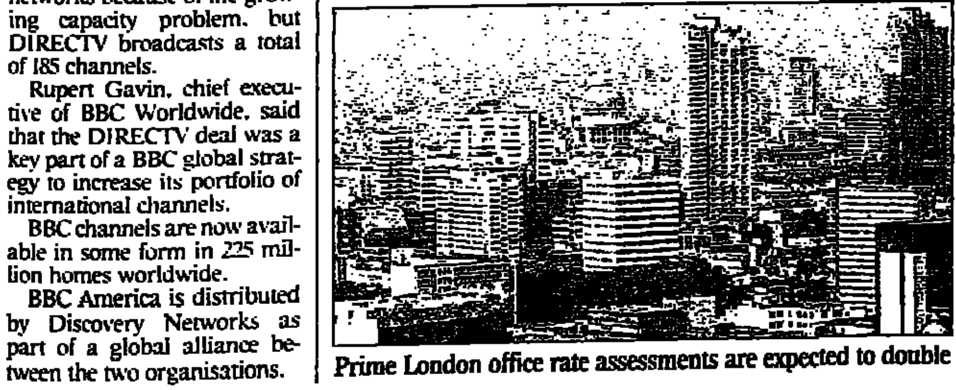
Fletcher King's own record on appeals is that for every ten appeals made on behalf of clients eight are successful, securing an average reduction rate of 17 per cent.

Mr Dickman said: "If we use those figures as a benchmark it is clear that many property owners and occupiers are paying considerably more than they need on their rates."

Next year a new rating list will come into force. The effect of the revaluation on rateable value will depend on the type of property and its locality, but increases may be significant.

Analysts believe that prime Central London office assessments are likely to double, with the immediate effect on rate payments depending on what phasing provisions are made by the Government.

These could be similar to those that apply to the 1995 Rating List, where increases in rate liability for Central London offices with an assessment of more than £15,000 have their annual increases restricted to 10 per cent plus inflation.



Prime London office rate assessments are expected to double

Paul Durman offers reassurance over chief's CV

Azur board prepares to float

TONY MARTIN has an eye-catching CV, having worked for British Biotech, Celsis International and Tepnel Life Sciences — three biotechnology companies that have resolutely destroyed the value of the money that shareholders invested in them.

Dr Martin is about to try again with Azur Environmental, a water monitoring equipment firm that he hopes to float on Easdaq in June or July. He plans to raise $20 million to fund expansion and expects Azur to be worth up to $60 million.

The "scorched earth" that Dr Martin's career has left behind him is not as worrying as it looks. At British Biotech he ran the profitable genetic products arm for about five years, and left in 1992 — long before the origins of last year's controversy over its misleadingly optimistic assessments of its drugs. And he was chairman of Tepnel for just a little more than a year.

More troubling was his sacking as chief executive of Celsis in 1994, only nine months after Chris Evans's hygiene monitoring company was floated. Mark Clement, his finance director, publicly branded Dr Martin as "ineffectual", an early example of the flair of biotech firms to make a bad situation worse.

Dr Martin, who eventually won a handsome settlement from Celsis, remains mystified by the episode. He said: "I still don't know to this day what led them, and Mark in particular, to say those things. I never detected any animosity and Mark had become almost a personal friend. I was very surprised by it all."

He became chairman and chief executive of Azur, then called Microbics, in June 1995, and raised $15 million for the Californian-registered firm the following March. Azur is now based in Reading, although most of its 48 staff remain in the US.

Working closely with Yorkshire Water, Azur has developed instruments that use freeze-dried bacteria to measure the toxicity of water — important both in the water industry and in a wide range of industrial processes. Dr Martin claims that this is an $8 billion market, although Azur's annual sales are currently less than $5 million.

The development, to Yorkshire Water's specification, of an online system that allows remote monitoring is forecast to produce a rapid increase in sales over the next few years, from $7 million next year to $35 million in the 2003 financial year. Azur plans to break even in 2001.

Yorkshire is already using Azur's Microtox-OS system, and the product is on trial with Northumbrian Water as well as with the East of Scotland water company.

Azur has also worked with Shell to develop a test to measure petroleum hydrocarbons in soil.



The trigger for the default on Zimbabwe's foreign debt could come in two weeks' time when the prices for tobacco, the main cash crop, are set

Zimbabwe on verge of greatest financial crisis

Jason Nissé reports from Harare on how a once thriving economy risks becoming another African basket case

April is the cruellest month. Within three weeks Zimbabwe could face the greatest financial crisis of its history; not just the 20-year history since it gained majority rule, or of the 33 years since it turned its back on Britain. But since the days when Cecil Rhodes opened the potential of what was then Southern Rhodesia more than a century ago.

To be blunt, Zimbabwe is running out of cash. It is on the threshold of a full-scale default on its foreign debt — which would see it fall from being a small but exciting player in the world economic system to another African basket case.

The default — which senior business figures in Harare talk about *sotto voce*, preferably over a gin and tonic — would undo a decade of good work and could have a knock-on effect for British companies such as Standard Chartered, Barclays and BAT, which have billions of pounds invested in the country.

The trigger is likely to be the tobacco "floor" in a little over two weeks, when the prices for the country's main cash crop are set. But the trouble has been brewing over a period which an official of Stanbic, the country's largest bank, calls "a mad 500 days".

Consider this evidence. A year and a half ago, Zimbabwe was thriving. In the mid-1990s it had finally thrown off the mantle of being the most promising country in Africa and had a genuinely booming economy.

Agricultural exports, notably tobacco, were strong, the mining sector was thriving, and tourism was becoming a genuine engine for growth. The country has the highest literacy rate in Africa, a well-trained and willing workforce (Zimbabwean staff are highly prized by South African hoteliers and retailers because of their work ethic and good manners) and, after South Africa, the best-developed financial system in sub-Saharan Africa. So the country had external debts of about £3 billion — 77 per cent of the gross national product. It had never defaulted on an external loan and both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the international community loved it.

Then Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's veteran President, effectively shot the economy in the foot.

First he resurrected plans for land reform which had been smouldering on the back burner since he came to power in 1980. He said the country would confiscate 1,400 farms owned by white farmers and redistribute them to poor black workers. There would be compensation, but there were still howls of protest. This plan has since been watered down to 800 farms and is rather off the main political agenda at the moment.

However, as the land reform row died down, Mugabe agreed a surprise Zim$3.5 billion (£60 million) package of payments to war veterans. This was seen as a political move that threw the economic calculations out of line.

There was a run on the currency — and what a run. In one day the Zimbabwe dollar fell from 14 to the US dollar to 26 and now stands at Zim$38 to the US dollar.

The run on the currency brought uncertainty and undermined confidence. But a deal was struck with the IMF for emergency funds and the Government pursued a tight fiscal policy and everything seemed to be back on, the straight and narrow.

Then last October Mr Mugabe decided to intervene to support President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Half the Zimbabwean army is now in the DRC, a move that has already cost more than Zim$3 billion and has thrown the economic calculations out of line again.

The IMF is unhappy. It was supposed to release US$53 million in support funds last month. It didn't. The US is said to have suspended about US$120 million of aid because of human rights violations — notably the torturing of two local journalists arrested last year after reporting an alleged attempted coup against the Mugabe Government.

Yet the banking sector has been able to support the Zimbabwe dollar and hold an uneasy calm in the markets for the past three months. It stepped in when the currency fell below Zim$40 to the US dollar and on the back of this there has been a recovery in the lively Zimbabwe stock market, which has seen its industrial index rise more than 40 per cent this year.

Tony Barfoot, chief executive of the exchange, points to a whole series of good results posted by leading Zimbabwe companies such as Meikles, the hotel and retailing group, and Econet, the mobile phone franchise. "The listed companies have been doing well while the currency is under pressure as it makes their exports cheaper," Mr Barfoot says.

There is one exception — the beleaguered textile industry, which has been hit by bad weather. This is particularly bad news for Lonrho Africa, which is trying to sell its majority stake in David Whitehead, Zimbabwe's largest cotton producer. Offers of Zim$300 million for the stake have fallen well short of expectations and Tom Cullen, Whitehead's managing director, has criticised Lonrho's timing. However, in the next few weeks this minor boom could fall apart. The commercial banks are running out of patience. They are pleased that their intervention has worked but do not want to be effectively underwriting an overvalued currency for much longer. "We have to see a return to market forces," says Barry Hamilton, chief executive of Standard Chartered in Zimbabwe, the country's largest foreign bank, which has about £250 million extended to Zimbabwean businesses.



Mugabe: to retire by 2002

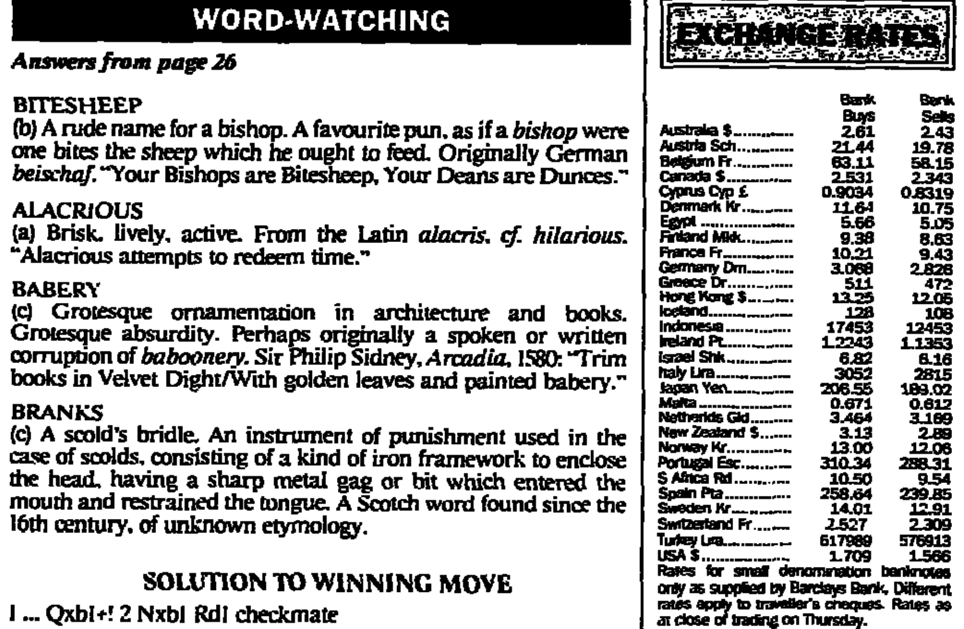
Harare's business leaders say that, if the worst comes to the worst, the country could run out of foreign reserves within weeks. For this to happen the prices at the tobacco sales would be disappointing, the Zimbabwean army would remain tied up in the DRC and the IMF, World Bank and US would not come up with any more money because Zimbabwe has not met the criteria set in the various loan and aid agreements struck over the past couple of years and the Government is adopting a decidedly anti-US stance.

To avoid a liquidity crisis, the Mugabe Government would have to immediately impose quite draconian exchange controls, the like of which have not been seen in Zimbabwe for more than a decade. It could even be forced into having to default on its debt payments.

Alternatively, the tobacco sales could go well, Mr Mugabe could withdraw his troops from the DRC, the IMF could release its US$53 million and the US could pay its US$120 million of aid.

There would be the small matter of inflation running at about 50 per cent and political uncertainty about who might succeed the 75-year-old Mr Mugabe, who has said he will retire by 2002. But, as Mervyn Ellis, a consultant economist who works for the World Bank among others, points out: "This country has never had good government. Yet the economy seems to come through all sorts of man-made disasters."

In Harare they are hoping that April will not bring one man-made disaster too many.



WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 26

BITESHEEP
(b) A rude name for a bishop. A favourite pun, as if a *bishop* were one bites the *sheep* which he ought to feed. Originally German *beischaf*. "Your Bishops are Bitesheep, Your Deans are Dunces."

ALACRIOUS
(a) Brisk, lively, active. From the Latin *alacris*, *cf. hilarious*. "Alacrious attempts to redeem time."

BABERY
(c) Grotesque ornamentation in architecture and books. Grotesque absurdity. Perhaps originally a spoken or written corruption of *baboonery*. Sir Philip Sidney, *Arcadia*, 1580: "Trim books in Velvet Dight/With golden leaves and painted babery."

BRANKS
(c) A scold's bridle. An instrument of punishment used in the case of scolds, consisting of a kind of iron framework to enclose the head, having a sharp metal gag or bit which entered the mouth and restrained the tongue. A Scotch word found since the 16th century, of unknown etymology.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 ... Qxb1+! 2 Nxb1 Rd1 checkmate

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.61	2.43
Austria Sch	21.44	19.78
Belgium Fr	63.11	58.15
Canada $	2.531	2.343
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9034	0.8319
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75
Egypt	5.66	5.05
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.25	12.05
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17453	12453
Ireland Pt	1.2243	1.1353
Israel Shk	6.82	6.16
Italy Lira	3052	2815
Japan Yen	206.55	189.02
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.464	3.169
New Zealand $	3.13	2.89
Norway Kr	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc	310.34	288.31
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.54
Spain Pta	258.64	239.85
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.527	2.309
Turkey Lira	617989	576913
USA $	1.709	1.566

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Thursday.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Fast train to Bangkok

Great Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9.30pm

Stephen Tompkinson, of *Ballykissangel* and *Drop the Dead Donkey*, is in larky mood for a trip from Singapore to Bangkok, mainly aboard the Eastern and Oriental Express. Given the restrictions of space and opportunities for avoiding spoilt, rich bores, "luxury" trains have always seemed to me a contradiction in terms, but the E&O looks to be well equipped, charmingly staffed and generous in its victualling. The passing scenery is certainly worth seeing and Tompkinson's self-scripted observations are direct and intelligent. Tellingly, it is on a side trip to the "Death Railway" constructed by prisoners of war for the Japanese, and the Bridge over the River Kwai, that the film moves up a notch or two.

Stephen Tompkinson on the E&O Express in *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Chasing the Tiger
BBC1, 10.30pm

Five years ago, it was predicted that tigers would be extinct in the wild by the year 2000. As Julian Pettifer, who presents and narrates this film, points out, this has not happened but at the present rates of depredation, extinction is still likely. Touring India and parts of South-East Asia, he uncovers not only evidence of high-level indifference to the fate of tigers, but blatant flouting (in Japan) of the idea of conservation. Until the demand for tiger body parts (as cure-alls and virility potions) dries up, all the remaining tigers are in danger. What is more, population growth and the demand for land and wood for fuel suggest that, within a few years, India's surviving tigers will be confined to small pockets of tightly guarded forest, as much prisoners as any zoo-held animals in the world

Trading Places: French Exchange
BBC1, 5.10pm

The start of a documentary series following pupils from a school in King's Lynn, Norfolk, on a week's visit to a town in the Champagne region of France. The youngest is 12 and the boys are outnumbered by the girls, who noticeably play up to the camera more. Advocates of earlier and more intensive foreign language teaching should find plenty of ammunition in the apparent disparity between Norfolk's French and Champagne's English, but in the first programme the emphasis is on the nervousness (however well disguised) of the English children and the real cultural divide which exists to be bridged.

Dead Man Talking
Channel 4, 9pm

Most of us love a detective story and many of us have recently enjoyed the archaeological investigations of *Time Team* and the like. Here's a tale which combines these attractions: a modern murder mystery in which a skeletal corpse must be identified before its killers can be tracked down. The body is turned up by a plough in a Hampshire field. Reconstruction and dental evidence suggest a non-English victim and the man is discovered to have been an illegal immigrant from India, living in Ilford, where he appears to have been killed. Even if you have seen or recall newspaper reports of the case, it remains a thoroughly fascinating hour's viewing. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

How Tickled Am I?
Radio 4, 11.30am

Mark Radcliffe is only the latest presenter to discover that the walls between the various BBC radio networks are not as high as they used to be: there was a time when presenters from Radio 1 had to wear disguises if they wandered into Radio 4's neck of the woods. Radcliffe presents this new series about northern comedians, which starts with Frank Randle, the hard-drinking "rebel from Wigan". Of course coming from Wigan gives a comedian an early advantage: in the days of music-hall you had only to say "Wigan" in front of a southern audience to get a laugh. The rest of the series features names that should be more familiar: Jimmy Clitheroe, Les Dawson, Ken Dodd, Jimmy James and Sandy Powell.

The Musical Side of the Family
Radio 4, 1.30pm

The nature versus nurture argument still rages. Long after it has been shown that both matter in the development of people, the question of which matters more still fascinates. That may seem an odd thought to be prompted by this series, but today's programme, in which Luke Zander, a London doctor, talks about his brother Ben, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic, perfectly illustrates what an upbringing in a highly motivated household can contribute to the making of a rounded adult. The brothers grew up in a Jewish, post-Second World War household which was full of music and literature and access to inspirational people: as boys, the Zanders would play cricket with Benjamin Britten. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Carl Davis Classic. New series of classic tracks from stage, screen, concert hall and opera **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** A Century of New York **10.00** Whicker's New World (2/7) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Mo Dutta **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the FA Premiership fixtures between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers at Highbury and Leicester City and Aston Villa at Filbert Street **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Crime Fighters **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** The World of Formula 1 **8.00** Cheating Hearts **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Breakfast Show Team **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** On Screen **9.00** World News **9.05** Performance **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** Discovery **10.00** World News **10.05** The Moonstone **10.20** The U.K. Top Twenty **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Omnibus **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Discovery **3.30** On Screen **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** Everywoman **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Going South **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Omnibus **8.00** World News **8.05** Discovery **8.30** Science Feedback **8.45** Off the Shelf. News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Live **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Jazzmatazz **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Discovery **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** On Screen **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Michael Mappin's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Rozsa (Spellbound Concerto); Rota (The Legend of the Glass Mountain) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue); Strauss (Der Rosenkavalier Suite); Orff (Carmina Burana) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Rozsa (Spellbound Concerto), Rota (The Legend of the Glass Mountain) *(r)* **3.00** Mark Griffiths The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, including a review of the new film *The Red Violin*
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Beethoven (Variations on Ein Madchen oder Weibchen, Op 66); Moeran (Overture to a Masque); Beethoven (Variations in C minor, WoO 80); Rigatti (Magnificat); Beethoven (Variations on Mozart's Bei Mannern, welche Liebe fuhlen', WoO 46); Goldmark (Violin Concerto No 1 in A minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson
11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedrals Richard Baker investigates the significance of Westminster Abbey to playwrights, poets and musicians
12.00 Composer of the Week: Britten *(r)*
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Chantal Juliet, violin, David Owen Norris, piano. Copland (Violin Sonata); Amy Beach (Three Pieces, Op 40); MacDowell (To a Wild Rose, Woodland Sketches); Ethelbert Nevin (Narcissus, Water Scenes); Corigliano (Violin Sonata)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales
4.00 Voices Iain Burnside introduces a selection of songs written in 1998 *(r)*
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to Christopher Page about Richard the Lionheart on the 800th anniversary of the death of the English monarch
7.30 Performance on 3 A recital recorded last February at the Festival Hall, London. Daniel Barenboim, piano. Beethoven (Piano Sonatas in C minor, Op 13, Pathetique; in E, Op 109); Debussy (Preludes, Book 1)
9.20 Postscript: Cinema Apocolyptica (2/5)
9.45 Job The European premiere, given in 1997 at London's Barbican Hall, of Peter Maxwell Davies's powerful and imaginative oratorio, dramatising the Old Testament story of suffering and innocence. Catherine Pierard, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo, Mark Padmore, tenor, Kevin MacMillan, baritone, BBC Singers, City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox
11.00 Night Waves Richard Coles talks to the historian Keith Thomas
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the second part of the concert given by Bucky Pizzarelli and the John Colliani Trio
12.00 Through the Night includes Wassanaer (Concerto No 1) **12.25** Field (Rondo for piano and strings) **12.30** Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet) **12.55** Mozart (Ave verum corpus) **1.00** Music from the time of Maximilian I **2.00** Liszt (Tasso) **2.25** Martinu (Madrigals) **2.40** Szymanowski (Variations, Op 3) **2.50** Brahms (Symphony No 4) **3.35** Strauss (Cello Sonata) **4.00** Stravinsky (8 Instrumental Miniatures) **4.10** Mozart (Divertimento, K137) **4.20** Monteverdi (Magnificat) **4.45** Faure (for harp) **5.00** Mozart (Bassoon and Cello Sonata, K292) **5.15** Mendlessohn (Violin Concerto in E minor) **5.45** Scarlatti (Sonata, K87) **5.50** Gaubert (Aquarelle No 1)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents
6.00 Today Introduced by Sue MacGregor
9.00 Unreliable Evidence The mysteries of the legal system are uncovered with the aid of Clive Anderson and other expert guests
9.30 Song Lines David Stafford reveals the origins of the song *Happy Birthday*, penned by Patty and Mildred Hill (3/5) *(r)*
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Paul Leddington Wright
9.45 (FM) Serial: Just William — The 80th Anniversary Martin Jarvis reads *That Boy*, by Richmal Crompton
10.00 Woman's Hour Martha Kearney speaks to Maggie McCune about her daughter's extraordinary marriage
11.00 Tales from the Back of Beyond Marc Francis learns about the lives of China's Dong people, famed for their vocal abilities *(r)*
11.30 How Tickled Am I? New series. See Choice (1/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One With James Cox
1.30 The Musical Side of the Family See Choice
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday *(r)*
2.15 Afternoon Play: Desert Island Desserts Comedy by Alexandra Cadall. Two interviewees from *Desert Island Discs* find the reality of being marooned less than satisfactory. Starring Nicholas Le Provost, Eddie Marsan and Sue Lawley *(r)*
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Peter White invites listeners' views on a topical issue
3.30 What's Yours Is Mine Couples talk about how money affects their relationships. Rory Cellan-Jones presents (1/4) *(r)*
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 67 of the history of Britain *(r)*
4.00 A Good Read The comedian Rob Newman and the writer Sara Wheeler discuss their favourite paperbacks with Sarah LeFanu
4.30 Shop Talk Business mattersn
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo and Philip Pope (2/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row The live nightly arts programme, presented by Mark Lawson
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal, starring Imelda Staunton and Richard Hope. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* *(r)*
8.00 Face the Facts John Waite and his team follow up listeners' complaints
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Case Notes Special Graham Easton reveals how to keep lungs healthy
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier *(r)*
10.00 The World Tonight with Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel by Robert Harris. A man claims he knows the whereabouts of Stalin's notebook. Read by Alan Howard
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Now Show Stand-up comedy and sketches with Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis *(r)*
11.30 Talking Pictures the latest film news
12.00 News12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads Philippa Gregory's novel about the life of the Jacobean gardener and adventurer John Tradescant
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Moving magic out into the real world

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Paul Zenon approaches strangers in the street, in pubs, in car parks, in shops and plays bewitchingly slick tricks on them. In **Paul Zenon Turning Tricks** (Channel 4), we saw how he makes a woman's credit card vanish and then makes it reappear inside his own wallet. Signed playing cards materialise inside a take-away doner kebab. He seems to print new £10 notes, or to make them vanish and turn up miraculously inside an uncut lemon. He tears coins in half. He walks into a fetish shop and leaves after having linked a woman's nosering to a man's earring.

Zenon is part of a new movement to move the magician away from the artificiality of the stage and into the heart of everyday life. Ever alert to giving the public what it wants, this trend may be what inspired Tony Blair, George Robertson and Robin Cook to move their magic out of the Cabinet room and into the real world: "You Sir. Yes, you Sir. Now watch closely. See this country? Take a close look and satisfy yourself that it is in fact Serbia. Now, it's being run by a vile, murderous dictator called Milosevic. We're going to sign his card. Will you please verify to the audience that we have done that? Right. Now, see those bombers? We're going to blitz Serbian military installations and five days later Milosevic puts his hands up and says 'You're more than a match for me'.

"And the beauty of this trick is that, because it is morally just and because it works so smoothly, we don't even have to think too hard in advance about what might happen if he doesn't give up, or if our actions swell the refugee crisis, or if we have to send in ground troops, or if we pledge to prosecute him for war crimes when this is over, thereby denting his incentive to desist. Now watch closely as the magic begins."

Yup, that's what makes Zenon so impressive. His tricks work effortlessly. The downside of playing tricks on Milosevic is that he's one of those cynical spoilsports who sits in the audience and says, "Yeah, I've seen that manoeuvre before and I know how it's done, so you can't fool me." Let's now hope that Blair, Robertson and Cook don't end up making a name for themselves on the club circuit as the only magicians who perform tricks in such a way that it is the magicians who are left wondering how the punter tricked *them*.

The story of little men pitted against an unfathomable, murderous, untameable beast also raised its head in **Moby Dick** (BBC2), which used the oil-on-glass animation technique to haunting effect to condense Melville into just half an hour without making you irritated by the stripping of the plot to its barest thread. The elaborate technique — by Moscow's Man And Time film studio — exquisitely captured the movement of the sea, of the *Pequod* and of the great white whale, while at the same time heightening the adventure's mythic qualities. It was produced by S4C, Channel Four Wales, which produced the Oscar-nominated *Canterbury Tales*, and the series of animated Shakespeare plays.

Lenny Henry, meanwhile, is still trying to pull off the trick that keeps many talented comics awake at night: doing something more than just making people laugh. Rory Bremner is translating operas. Steve Martin now writes for *The New Yorker*, to show us that he has literary talent as well as Rolex-accurate slapstick timing. Every so often Woody Allen will make a movie that is even less funny than a heart attack, just to show that he *can*.

In **The Man** (BBC1) Henry gets to sing all his pet songs (as in James Brown numbers, rather than in *How Much is That Doggy in the Window*), just as he does in those for-one-night-only charity shows in West End theatres when all the other comics are doing comedy and he's belting out Rhythm and Blues. *The Man* does have a 'plot': a Midlands estate agent, Dennis, hankering after a rock star life, who eventually realises what's really important in life when his girlfriend and friends all leave him. But it's essentially a string of great songs strung, like gaudy beads, onto a twine necklace. At times it felt like you were watching BBC drama with Coca Cola and Levis commercials every four minutes as one classic tune followed another.

Lenny was clearly having the time of his life, but were we? Strangely, I was, mostly. In a mild sort of way. It takes quite an acting range to span bumptious go-getter to heartbroken loser in under two hours. Jack Lemon can do funny and serious, very often within the same minute. But it's a massive trick to pull off. However, what Henry lacks in acting expertise — compared, say, to Marianne Jean-Baptiste, who shone in her role as Henry's girlfriend, Michelle — he makes up for in genial watchability. And hey, great songs!

More fab tunes in **The Bay City Rollers — Remember?** (BBC1), and actually, yes, it *is* hard to remember just how huge a success they were in their tartan-trimmed clown's outfits (they still are in Japan: look no further for evidence of the unfathomability of the Japanese).

This was a well-made documentary about the Scottish band and their bubblegum pop, and about how fame made them neither happy nor rich, and I'm glad I saw it. But I'm not quite as cheered by news that the band is reforming. So to the producers of *The Bay City Rollers — Remember?* the answer is "Yes we do, but can we now forget again, please?" Because, as we all know, magic tricks are never quite so convincing the second time around.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (30148)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (76877)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9269186)
9.45 Style Challenge (8903506)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (8897029)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (9204983)
11.00 Change That (9281032)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9291419)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7493362)
12.00 Going for a Song New series of the antiques quiz (5786849)
12.25pm Wipeout (6231934)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76181051)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (79964)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58268896)
1.40 Neighbours Sarah faces an uncertain future (T) (16419693)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1307051)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2373506)
3.25 Children's BBC: Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8703490) **3.45** Arthur (2707728) **4.10** Anthony Ant (1544612) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5007902) **4.35** Rugrats (7708235) **5.00** Newsround (5730032)
5.10 CHOICE **Trading Places: French Exchange** Following a group of schoolchildren on an exchange visit to Champagne (2591631)
5.33 Rewind (T) (381341)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (700186)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (693)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (273)
7.00 Holiday Jill Dando visits the Italian resort of Capri, while Kate Sanderson soaks up the sun on the Caribbean island of St Kitts (T) (5070)
7.30 EastEnders Melanie has second thoughts (T) (457)
8.00 Animal Hospital (T) (1490)
8.30 Supernatural: The Unseen Powers of Animals How animals survive harsh environments (T) (6475)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8761)
9.30 Jailbirds Sue has an emotional reunion with her boyfriend (T) (85964)
10.00 The Vicar of Dibley Comedy, starring Dawn French (r) (T) (71273)



The tiger, one of the world's most endangered species (10.30pm)

10.30 CHOICE **Chasing the Tiger** The future of the big cats (T) (881070)
11.20 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia Billy samples life in the Outback (r) (T) (554709)
12.00 The Sunshine Boys (1975) FILM Neil Simon's sentimental comedy, starring Walter Matthau and George Burns. Directed by Herbert Ross (T) (706842)
1.45am Weather (2466858)
1.50 BBC News 24 (54929991)

WALES

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (273) **1.45am-1.50 News and Weather** (2466858)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts **7.10** The Silver Brumby **7.35** Top Cat **7.55** The Bots Master **8.20** Buried Treasure **8.40** Goober and the Ghost Chasers **9.05** The Midas Touch **9.35** Student Bodies **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** FILM The Ugly Dachshund (94254) **12.00** Wildlife Showcase (78186) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (96070) **1.00** Oakie Doke (38493273)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (1002877)
2.10 Sporting Greats (89174525)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8585877)
2.45 On Cue with Steve Davis 1998 Benson and Hedges Masters Final (5331709)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5071815)
3.30 The Village (r) (2700815)
3.55 Kaye Advice show (2785506)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7393457)
4.55 Esther (T) (9585167)
5.30 Whose House? (322)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air US comedy with Will Smith (r) (T) (646780)
6.25 Heartbreak High Lee's 18th birthday celebrations are ruined (T) (826631)
7.10 The O Zone Martine McCutcheon talks about life after Albert Square (T) (651032)
7.30 Counterblast Dr Charles Lane reveals the detrimental consequences of international wildlife conservation projects on people in Africa (2/6) (T) (159)
8.00 University Challenge Durham v Trinity College, Cambridge (T) (9032)
8.30 Your Money or Your Life Alvin Hall helps a 37-year-old Army major sort out her shaky finances (6/6) (T) (8167)



Classic comedy starring Tony Hancock (9pm)

9.00 Hancock's Half Hour Tony Hancock embarks on a marathon train journey to the wilds of Yorkshire (r) (T) (9631)
9.30 CHOICE **Great Railway Journeys** Stephen Tompkinson boards the Eastern and Oriental Express bound for Bangkok (T) (477506)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Last in series (T) (559341)
10.30 Newsnight (889612)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (942070)
11.20 Young Musicians (545051)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show Doberman reveals a hidden talent (r) (T) (8199129)
12.25am Weather (2322910)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Asthma and the Bean **12.55** CyberArt: Technosphere **1.00** The Front Desk **1.30** Just Seventeen: The Geometry of Patterns **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — Science 4 **4.00** Languages. Espana Viva! **5.00** Business and Training Career Moves — Leisure **5.45** Open University: Hidden Power **6.10** Of Fish and People: Modelling a Muddle **6.35** Free Body Diagrams

WALES

9.00pm Sophie Grigson's Herbs (T) (9631)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (76438)
6.00 GMTV (2102896)
9.25 CITV: Tiny Toons (7265341) **9.50** Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad The Sailor (7281322) **10.15** *Bugs Bunny* (7543235)
10.25 ITV News Headlines (T) (2388438)
10.30 Mysterious Island (1961) FILM A group of prison escapers find themselves in a strange land inhabited by fabulous creatures. Sci-fi adventure, starring Michael Craig and Herbert Lom. Directed by Cy Endfield (T) (49462235)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7325419)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2949273)
12.55 Shortland Street (2924964)
1.25 Breakaways Turkey (r) (93806506)
1.30 Lie Detector New series. Dominic Green invites viewers whose friends or family suspect them of lying to undergo tests to find out (T) (16415877)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5373235)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2362490)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5070186)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5079457)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5050322) **3.30** Rosie and Jim (5824728) **3.40** The Wombles (4323051) **3.50** Scooby Doo (7229070) **4.10** Snap (7399631) **4.40** How 2 (2219877)
5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (1542)
5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? Family surprise show (5/7) (T) (148)
5.30 WALES: Night Owls (5/6) (T) (148)
5.58 HTV Weather (395544)
6.00 HTV News (T) (640506)
6.25 Kosovo Refugees Appeal (905070)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (341)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (7438)
7.30 WEST: West Eye View Regional current affairs reports (525)
7.30 WALES: High Performance Profile of the actor Rhys Ifans (4/6) (T) (525)



Superintendent Brownlow co-operates with a film crew (8pm)

8.00 The Bill Superintendent Brownlow agrees to co-operate with a fly-on-the-wall documentary about modern-day policing (T) (8877)
9.00 Peak Practice Clare Shearer returns to Cardale (T) (1341)
10.00 Wonderful You Heather regrets a night spent with Alan (5/7) (T) (1728)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (444728)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (322167)
11.30 The Big Match Preview of Manchester United v Juventus (56525)
12.00 Tales from the Crypt (r) (49910)
12.30am Football Extra Highlights (44129)
1.30 The Haunted Fishtank (89129)
2.00 Judge Judy (T) (8969991)
2.25 Decoration Day (TVM 1990) FILM A retired, widowed judge finds new purpose in life. Drama, starring James Garner. Directed by Robert Markowitz (982397)
4.10 Wish You Were Here? (T) (68148200)
4.40 Coach Luther goes hunting (83092007)
5.00 ITV Nightscreen (38465)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9543148) **12.55 Lie Detector** (T) (2924964) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4198780) **2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country** (8/18) (r) (T) (89161051) **3.15-3.20 Central News;** Weather (T) (5079457) **5.30 Shortland Street** (148) **6.00-6.25 Central News at Six;** Weather (640506) **7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (525) **11.20-11.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (322167) **12.05am Football Extra** (9180552) **1.05 The Haunted Fishtank** (3878281) **1.40 Judge Judy** (T) (9452561) **2.00 FILM: Decoration Day** (963262) **3.45 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (98858) **4.15 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (9995303) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (9790262)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (7325419) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9551167) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live;** Weather (T) (2924964) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4198780) **2.10-2.40 Lie Detector** (T) (89161051) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5079457) **4.58-5.00 Birthday People** (9794952) **5.30 Our House** (T) (148) **6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (640506) **7.30-8.00 Stranger Than Fiction** (T) (525) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (322167) **12.00-12.30 The Making of Arlington Road** (49910)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7325419) **5.30 Monkey Business** (2/7) (r) (148) **6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight** (T) (640506) **7.29 Meridian Weather** (866493) **7.30-8.00 The Plain** (3/4) (r) (T) (525) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (322167) **12.00-12.30 Pier Pressure** (r) (49910) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (38465)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9556612) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7325419) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (5799834) **6.00-6.25 Anglia News** (T) (640506) **7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner** (525) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (946896) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (322167) **12.00-12.30 Tales from the Darkside** (r) (49910)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28238167) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69198631) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (92401322) **9.05 Saved By the Bell** (T) (92265438) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93559273) **10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (83310341) **10.30 CatDog** (T) (39100341) **10.45 Planet Pop** (41127083) **11.15 Moesha** (T) (44377506) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (99465761) **12.00 Dawson's Creek** (T) (93549896) **1.00pm Planed Plant** (T) (69168490) **1.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (85740322) **1.45 FILM: Alive and Kicking** (T) (97042099) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99581544) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99560051) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99566235) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41948148) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99580815) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49014235) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39895780) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41951612) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99567964) **8.00 Sian James Yn Slapan** (T) (41937032) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (41956167) **9.00 Tair Chwaer** (r) (T) (27688235) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51305780) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (7/8) (T) (92818419) **11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show** (87675780) **11.50 Smack the Pony** (T) (67538099) **12.20am The Establishment** (1/6) (T) (15462262) **12.50 The Last of the Hiding Tribes** (1/3) (T) (86141674) **1.50 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (r) (5208235)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (92815)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3419902)
9.05 Saved By the Bell (7250419)
9.30 Sam and Max (87322)
10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (58983)
10.30 CatDog (3293148)
10.45 Planet Pop (810631)
11.15 Moesha (817544)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2542896)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (63254)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (98438)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (r) (T) (95902)
1.30 Mountain Gorilla (58251506)
1.40 Wuthering Heights (1939) FILM Adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel. Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier star. Directed by William Wyler (T) (32517506)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (419)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (254)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7725902)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9570235)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (490)
6.00 King of the Hill Bobby has a trial for the school wrestling team (r) (T) (631)
6.30 Home Improvement Lauren fails to be impressed by Randy's new-found karate skills (T) (980761)
6.55 Planet Pop Music magazine (772964)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (930693)
7.55 Dovetales (5/8) (T) (825815)
8.00 Brookside Jimmy gives Lindsey some much-needed advice (T) (4728)
8.30 Classic British Cars 1947 Jowett Javelin and 1963 Hillman Imp (T) (3235)



The medical artist Richard Neave at work on the skeleton (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Dead Man Talking** Report on the discovery of a decomposing body buried in a field in Hampshire (T) (9983)
10.00 Father Ted The priests dice with death (r) (T) (64983)
10.30 Queer as Folk Stuart throws a 30th birthday party for Vince (7/8) (T) (413728)
11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical comedy with Iain Lee (T) (642438)
11.45 Electric Avenue New series about the inhabitants of a Brixton community. The first programme introduces the restaurateur Vincent Osborne (1/4) (402159)
12.15am Hitler's Forgotten Victims The reality of life for prisoners of Nazi concentration camps (r) (2439668)
1.20 The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl The German film-maker's turbulent life and career (r) (T) (5886668)
2.50 Kid Millions (1934) FILM Musical comedy, starring Eddie Cantor as a simpleton who inherits a fortune and falls foul of a variety of money-grabbing characters. Directed by Roy del Ruth (846281)
4.30 Palmy Days (1931) FILM Comedy musical starring Eddie Cantor as a bogus fortune teller's stooge. Directed by A. Edward Sutherland (8799755)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Current events (5063457)
7.00 WideWorld Part three. The technical advances made by Portuguese explorers (r) (T) (2913273)
7.30 Milkshake! (2701631)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r) (4132544)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8912877)
8.30 Witchworld; 5 News Update (8911148)
9.00 Was It Good For You? (r) (4876273)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (3334693)
9.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6931896)
10.25 Sunset Beach Michael confronts Virginia (T) (4317070)
11.15 Leeza (3098983)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8915964)
12.30pm Family Affairs Benji defends Maggie's honour (r) (T) (3336713)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sally receives bad news (T) (2912544)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat with the outrageous comedian; 5 News Update (1033344)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2216761)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle programmes; 5 News Update (8809631)
3.30 Vanishing Act (TVM 1986) FILM A bride disappears while on honeymoon, leaving her newlywed husband grasping at straws in a bid to find her. Thriller, starring Elliot Gould. Directed by David Greene (T) (2083419)
5.20 5 News (59324525)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6210728)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6200341)
6.30 Family Affairs Sadie shows off her cookery skills (T) (6291693)
7.00 Knight Rider Bonnie is kidnapped by an elitist intellectual organisation and forced to reprogramme KITT to participate in a museum robbery and kill Michael. David Hasselhoff stars (r) (2227877)
7.30 Animal Marvels A close-up look at giant armies of ants, exploring their relationship with plants (T); 5 News Update (6297877)
8.00 Computer Software: Are You Being Cheated? New series. Real-life footage of fraudsters and cheats, beginning with the growing problem of software piracy. Will Daws examines claims that computer companies encourage this kind of crime by overpricing their goods, and reveals the true extent of this thriving underground industry (1/4) (T) (2236525)
8.30 What Went Wrong? Dramatic footage and computer reconstructions of real-life catastrophes (2215032)
9.00 White Mile (TVM 1994) FILM Alan Alda stars as an advertising agency head who persuades his colleagues to go white-water rafting on the treacherous rivers of British Columbia — with tragic consequences. Directed by Robert Butler (T); 5 News Update (49360099)
10.50 Two Gus embarks on a relationship with a passionate woman, but gets more than he bargained for when her mysterious past comes to light (3770803)
11.45 Kosovo Appeal (6495490)
11.50 Live and Dangerous Soccer action from the Dutch league (63179964)
5.30am 100 Per Cent (r) (6934007)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (29983) **7.30** Grimmy (93790) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (19457) **8.30** Godzilla (18728) **9.00** Pokemon (92780) **9.30** The Simpsons (36612) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (81235) **10.30** Xena Warrior Princess (72780) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (44167) **12.00** Tarzan (26235) **1.00pm** Jeopardy (28254) **1.30** Jeopardy (46099) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (82964) **3.00** Jenny Jones (48983) **4.00** Pokemon (7916) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (9780) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6341) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (2083) **6.30** Dream Team (1525) **7.00** The Simpsons (7070) **7.30** The Simpsons (7709) **8.00** Speed! (3490) **8.30** Speed! (2525) **9.00** Police Stop! (651 48) **10.00** The World's Scariest Police Chases (68235) **11.00** Dream Team (35419) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (90254) **12.30am** Law and Order (88533) **1.30** Long Play (4790465)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Chasing Amy (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Jackie Brown (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 50) **Rubber (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Kiss the Girls (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Crossing Delancey (1988) (60099) **8.00 House Arrest (1996)** (17798709) **9.45 First Kid (1996)** (596254) **11.45 Crossing Delancey (1988)** (78324273) **1.30pm Contact (1997)** (341419) **4.00 House Arrest (1996)** (9815) **6.00 First Kid (1996)** (60693) **8.00 Contact (1997)** (982065) **10.30 Absolute Power (1997)** (46419) **12.30am Criminal Law (1989)** (75427842) **2.35 The Perez Family (1995)** (152262) **4.30** The Directors: Lawrence Kasdan (58552)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.05am The Rockford Files: Blessing in Disguise (1995) (54065341) **7.00 No More Baths! (1997)** (10235) **9.00 Little Cobras: Operation Dalmatian (1997)** (86780) **11.00 Heart Full of Rain (1997)** (44506) **1.00 No More Baths! (1997)** (97896) **3.00 Little Cobras: Operation Dalmatian (1997)** (94070) **5.00 Heart Full of Rain (1997)** (95877) **7.00 The Rockford Files: Godfather Knows Best (1996)** (34815) **9.00 Bionic Everafter (1994)** (59099) **10.30** How to Get Ahead in Film (84761) **11.00 Year of the Dragon (1985)** (43022506) **1.15am One Hot Summer Night (1997)** (948484) **2.45 Pretty Poison (1996)** (938007) **4.15 The Rockford Files: Godfather Kno ws Best (1996)** (32479113)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Pack Up Your Troubles (1932) (7525525) **6.00 The New Adventures of Tarzan (1935)** (7657326) **8.00 92 in the Shade (1975)** (65289525) **9.45** Cinema Nation: A Night at the Rex (4845322) **10.00 Salvador (1986)** (86055167) **12.05am** 100 Years — 100 Movies Against the Grain (3904281) **12.55 The Sea Wolves (1980)** (7499533) **2.55 Abbott and Costello Meet the Invisible Man (1951)** (28617194) **4.20 On Dangerous Ground (1951)** (6205755)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Robin and Marian (1976) (65681709) **7.50** Mr Morris (5429896) **8.00 Good Morning, Vietnam (1987)** (93745964) **10.05 The Usual Suspects (1995)** (7549235) **12.00 American Buffalo (1995)** (6150465) **1.30am Things Change (1988)** (3872620) **3.10 Vanya on 42nd Street (1994)** (67905484) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Crucifer of Blood (TVM 1991) (93556693) **11.00 The Haunting (1963)** (99663964) **1.15am Night Must Fall (1964)** (71279484) **3.00 Crucifer of Blood (TVM 1991)** (84899129) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Spanish Football **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Football Special **2.30** Football League Review **3.00** V-Max **3.30** Total Sport **4.00** Golf **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Live Super League **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Super League **2.30** Inside Scottish Football **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Snow Show **10.30** Total Sport **11.00** Super League **12.00** World Motor Sport **3.00pm** Live Cricket **10.00** Golf **11.00** Sports Unlimited **12.00** Fastrax **12.30am** Total Sport **1.00** Golf **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wrestling Federation. Live Wire **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Live Snooker **5.00** Rebel Sports **5.30** Fastrax **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Live Snooker **10.00** Boxing Superbouts **11.00** Tales from the Premiership **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Live Swimming **9.00** Football **11.00** Football **12.30** Football **2.30** Live Cycling **4.00** Football **7.30** Strongman **8.30** Boxing **9.30** Football **11.00** US Golf **12.00** Olympic Magazine **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.50** Red Dwarf **11.30** The Bill **12.00** The Bill **12.30am** Between the Lines **1.25** Dad's Army **2.00** The Man from Auntie **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors





The Usual Suspects, Brian Singer and Christopher McQuarrie's award-winning crime thriller (FilmFour, 10.05pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Chancer **9.00** Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Peak Practice **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Labyrinth (1986)** **8.40** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.30** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn Medicine Woman **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** O ggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **1.00** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.00** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved By the Bell: The College Years s **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00pm** Saved By the Bell: Wedding in Las Vegas **3.00** City Guys **4.00** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **6.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **7.00** Rush **7.15** Bangs **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: To Live and Die in LA (1985)** **1.15am** Erotic Confessions **1.45** The Late Lounge **2.15** Martial Law **3.15 FILM: Come Play with Me (1977)** **5.15** Short **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Late Night with David Letterman **12.30am** The Larry Sanders Show **1.00** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Maximum Overdrive (1986)** **12.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00am FILM: Dracula's Widow (1988)** **2.35** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Best of British **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Black Box **9.00** Crocodile Hunter **10.00** Speed **11.00** Extreme Machines **12.00** Betty's Voyage **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Hunters of the Coral Reef **1.30** Ocean Wilds: Galapagos **2.00** Giants of the Mediterranean **3.00** Shark! **4.00** Two Worlds **4.30** Champions of the Wild **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Gatherers from the Sky **7.30** Tree Kangaroo **8.30** The Third Planet **9.00** Natural Born Killers: Eagles — Shadows on the Wing **10.00** The Shark Files: Great White — In Search of the Giant **11.00** Wildlife Adventures: African Garden of Eden **12.00** The Shark Files: Danger Beach

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: The Gulf War — Steel Rain **5.00** Tankers **6.00** Ramses: Favourite of the Gods **7.00** Playback: Jilly Cooper **7.30** Bomb to the Beatles: I, Witness — Lifting the Gloom

CARLTON FOOD

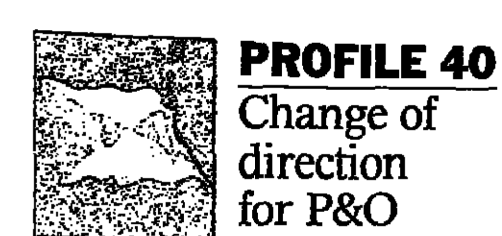
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Nancy Lam's Wok Wiz **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Simply Baking **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Jerry Springer Show **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry S pringer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Shooting Elizabeth (1992)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthap Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Hasratein **10.00** Stage Plays **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Bangla TV **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** Mama Maya **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Teacher **9.00** Zee Addicts **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00** News **12.30am** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** FILM **4.30** Lolly-Pop



PROFILE 40
Change of direction for P&O

BUSINESS

DEBT CRISIS 42
Zimbabwe on brink of financial ruin



New issues dry up in first quarter as investors shun smaller stocks

Flotations fall to ten-year low



Mackay: floated brewer

By Paul Armstrong

THE number of flotations on the London Stock Exchange has slumped to its lowest level for more than ten years, even though share prices have risen to an all-time high.

Just ten issues joined the stock market in the three months to the end of March, according to a survey by KPMG Corporate Finance. Six of these were investment trusts.

Yesterday KPMG gave warning that the situation was unlikely to improve this year. Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG, said the flight of investment capital away from smaller stocks would probably cause the number of quoted companies going private to double from last year's number of 25.

He said this figure would be much higher if the mechanics of privatisation were not so difficult. But Mr Austin said fears were also growing among institutions that some managers were playing down their company's prospects to enable management buyouts to be made at a more favourable price.

He said a recent corporate governance survey by KPMG had revealed that fund managers were increasingly looking to non-executive directors as a way to ensure that smaller companies' share prices were not deliberately restrained.

The ten flotations in the March quarter compares with 12 in the previous corresponding period and 73 for the same time in 1994.

Those companies that joined the quoted sector in the past three months include Yeoman II Investment Trust, which raised £35.8 million, Jupiter Enhanced Income Investment Trust (£47.7 million), Close Brothers Development (£4.3 million), Gander Properties (introduction), Acorn Income Fund (£12 million), The Enhanced Zero Trust (£60 million), Synstar (£96 million), South African Breweries (£300 million) led by Graham Mackay, chief executive, Axon Group (£13.8 million) and Morse Holdings (£145 million). The figures exclude the April 1 listing of Canary Wharf, which raised £551 million.

Buyout proposals announced recently include Hall Engineering (£82.8 million), Goldsmiths (£43.9 million) and Rebus (£172 million).

The surging popularity of index tracker funds has seen fund managers abandon smaller and many medium-sized companies in favour of their bigger listed counterparts. The trend has exacerbated the problem of poor liquidity at the junior end of the market, where institutions fear they will be unable to sell a holding without severely depressing the share price.

It has also raised concerns about a shortage of development capital for emerging companies.

Mr Austin said a small part of the junior sector's plight could be blamed on a cyclical downturn, but most of it reflected a fundamental shift in investment priorities.

While institutions acknowledged that shares in some smaller companies were good value, it took too much time and money to identify them.

He said the poor market for smaller flotations would eventually deter venture capital groups from funding some buyouts because this avenue for exiting the investment was narrowing.

However, the lack of interest in smaller stocks could also provide an opportunity for those venture capitalists with a longer-term view.

Mr Austin said they could retain their investment while the company grew to a point where it attracted fund managers, providing scope for a substantial return.

Markets hope for double rate cut boost

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

FINANCIAL markets hope for a double boost this week, with both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank(ECB) tipped to cut interest rates.

In Britain the business trends survey of the Engineering Employers' Federation is expected to show the engineering industry, comprising 5,000-plus companies employing 1.5 million, slipped deeper into recession in the first quarter.

The ECB has softened its rate stance recently, with senior members of the governing board apparently emphasising the risks of a slowdown in the European economy. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and the ECB will announce their decisions on Thursday.

A majority of City economists expect the MPC to cut rates by a quarter point because of the continued strength of the pound and lower than expected fourth quarter GDP growth.

Survey evidence has suggested that the European economy is rapidly slowing, while inflation remains subdued. The resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, German Finance Minister, also removed a perceived political obstacle to rate cuts.

The ECB has come under pressure from international institutions in recent weeks to consider a rate cut. Last week the European Commission cut its euroland growth forecast from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent, while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Monetary Fund executive board indicated that they felt that the ECB has room to reduce rates.

US policymakers want Europe to adopt a more expansionary policy to ensure that the US does not have to take the whole strain of trying to stimulate global growth. However, some economists feel that, with the euro trading close to record lows, the ECB will leave rates at 3 per cent.

Dow surges above 10,000

From Andrew Butcher in New York

BETTING against an interest rate rise in the near future, US investors pushed the key Dow Jones industrial average above 10,000 again yesterday.

The market surged from the opening after an employment report, released last Friday, showed the lowest jobless rate since 1970 combined with low wage rises. The report was viewed as harmless to interest rates and encouraging for corporate earnings.

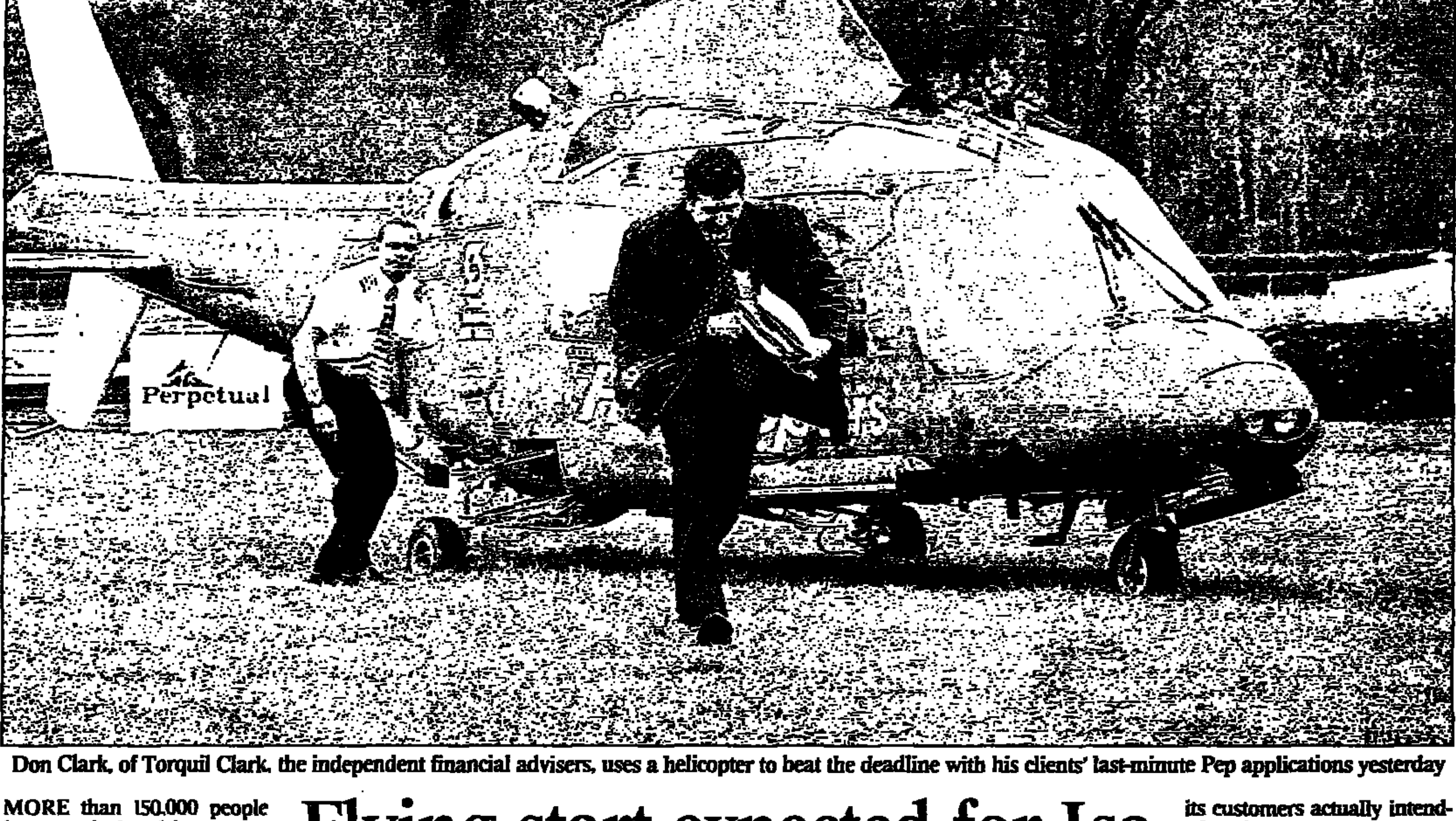
Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch, said: "The US economy remains robust and the corporate earnings outlook is improving."

General Electric soared to a new high, while most of the other 29 companies that make up the Dow also rose. General Electric's market capitalisation is the largest of any Dow company. Only Microsoft, which is listed on the Nasdaq market, is worth more.

The Nasdaq index, with a membership rich in technology companies, rocketed towards a record level as investors bought Internet and computer stocks with renewed relish.

Yahoo!, the leading Internet search site, powered ahead more than 10 per cent to within a whisker of a record high as analysts revised the company's earnings estimates.

America Online, the world's most popular Internet service provider and one of the stock market's best performers in recent years, also continued its bull market run.



PHILIP MEECH

Don Clark, of Torquil Clark, the independent financial advisers, uses a helicopter to beat the deadline with his clients' last-minute Pep applications yesterday

Flying start expected for Isa

MORE than 150,000 people have made inquiries to National Savings about the individual savings account (Isa), the new tax-free savings scheme that will go on sale for the first time today (Caroline Merrell writes).

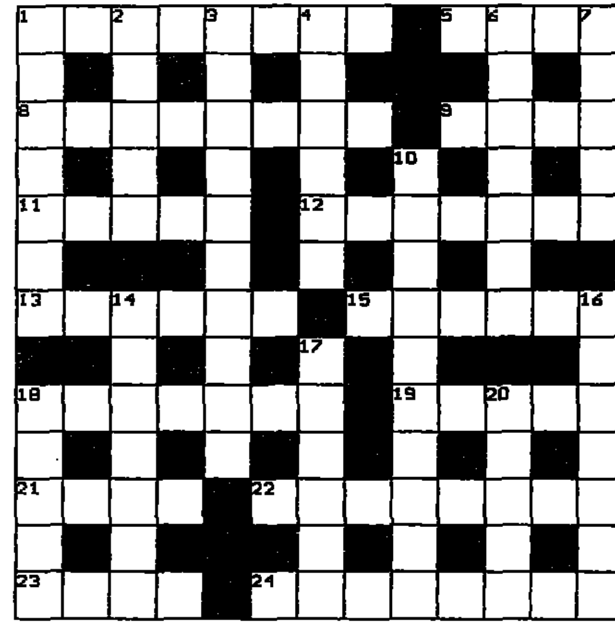
The Isa will replace personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). According to National Savings, the level of inquiries is much higher than expected. Peter Bareau, chief executive of National Savings, said: "Since we began advertising Isas on television and in the press, inquiries have been coming in at the rate of over 2,000 per day. We are expecting a heavy demand."

According to research by MORI for Newton, the fund manager, about 15 per cent of adults in Britain think they will invest in the Isa in the first half of this tax year. The 15 per cent equates to 6.75 million adults and compares with the 8 per cent who intended to invest in Peps during the same period last year.

In-house research by Newton revealed that one in five of its customers actually intended to invest more in an Isa than they did in a Pep, suggesting that the Isa has been accepted by investors.

Overall, investors aim to save an average of £2,212 in Isas in the first six months. However, individuals nearing retirement have more to invest and say they will save £4,258 on average.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1684

ACROSS
1 Exhausted-soil disaster (4,4)
5 Church recess (4)
8 Perfumed (8)
9 Pine; extended (4)
11 Papal court (5)
12 Trafalgar anniversary month (7)
13 Repudiate (6)
15 Trouble: take trouble (6)
18 Big Greek jar (7)
19 Holy quest object (5)
21 Prosperous period; explosive noise (4)
22 Flirtatious behaviour (8)
23 Yugoslav dictator once (4)
24 Taken into custody (8)

DOWN
1 (Appearance) vandalised (7)
2 Set of steps (5)
3 It came to Dunsinane *(Macbeth)* (6,4)
4 Unprovoked; lascivious (6)
6 Lord High Everything Else *(Mikado)* (4-3)
7 — Allan Poe: *Lear* beggar (5)
10 In which are one's best cards (6,4)
14 Backing (7)
16 Passed on, along (7)
17 Multi-storeyed temple (6)
18 Bounds, scope (5)
20 Later than (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1683
ACROSS: 1 Cocked 4 Outer 8 Let up 9 Unequal 10 Rue 11 Ochre 12 Shampoo 14 Thrash 16 Sonnet 20 Estella 23 Fiche 24 Nil 25 Iranian 26 Igloo 27 Ditty 28 Beheld
DOWN: 1 Call of the wild 2 Catcher 3 Empress 4 Opera 5 Trump 6 Rule of the road 7 Guest 13 Man 15 Ace 17 Off-line 18 Nacelle 19 Canny 21 Trait 22 Laity

SOLUTION TO EASTER SATURDAY TIMES TWO JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Debacle 5 Illustrator 11 Thrusts 15 Apartheid 16 Durrell 17 Bête noire 18 Respray 19 Necktie 20 Pain-killing 21 The wish is father to the thought 23 Catalonia 25 Turn the tide 27 Foyer 29 Contributor 31 Gambol 32 Hispanic 35 Pre-empt 37 Eternity 38 Hard-bitten 40 Swiss chard 41 Tribunal 42 Upgrade 44 Obelisks 45 Castle 46 Rationalise 49 Envoi 51 Thunderclap 53 Boot sales 55 Triumph of hope over experience 58 Sleeping car 60 Dunedin 61 Sterile 62 Advertise 63 Porcine 64 Daintiest 65 Earmark 66 Tastelessly 67 Soybean
DOWN: 1 Diacritic 2 Brassie 3 Caterpillar 4 Everything but the kitchen sink 5 Indonesia 6 Lady Chatterley 7 Stretcher 8 Roe deer 9 Telephone box 10 Rubbish bin 11 To take the wind out of one's sails 12 Renal 13 Smilingly 14 Sleight 22 Offspring 24 Tangerine 26 Timetable 28 Reconvene 29 Copestone 30 Theory 31 Generator 33 Nathaniel 34 Hamlet 36 Mysticism 39 Unpreparedness 43 Cardiographs 47 Abstinently 48 Sufficient 50 Voice-over 52 Levantine 53 Boxing Day 54 Steventon 55 Testate 56 Endorse 57 Naiveté 59 Parma

News Corp to unveil $2.1bn Liberty deals

From Andrew Butcher in New York

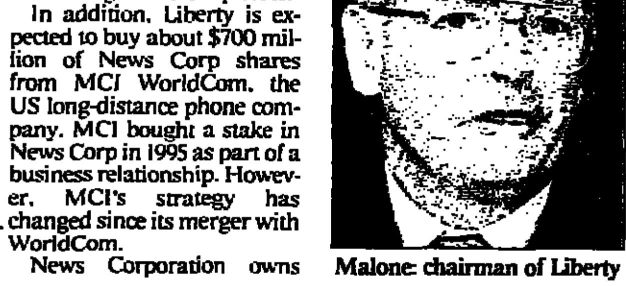
THE News Corporation, the global media group, is today expected to announce two deals worth $2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) with Liberty Media, the US sports broadcasting venture.

News Corp is set to acquire Liberty's 50 per cent interest in Fox/Liberty Networks, a joint venture with News Corp, for about $1.4 billion in non-voting News Corp stock.

In addition, Liberty is expected to buy about $700 million of News Corp shares from MCI WorldCom, the US long-distance phone company. MCI bought a stake in News Corp in 1995 as part of a business relationship. However, MCI's strategy has changed since its merger with WorldCom.

News Corporation owns News International, the parent company of *The Times*.

Fox/Liberty Networks is a sports business that was formed in 1995 to challenge the ESPN network that had dominated sports broadcasting in America. Liberty, now a subsidiary of AT&T, is chaired by John Malone.



Malone: chairman of Liberty

When the two deals have been completed Liberty will become the third-largest shareholder in News Corp with an interest of 7.5 per cent.

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive, and other family members control about 30 per cent of the company's shares, while the Capital Group owns 8.5 per cent.

Several Wall Street analysts viewed Mr Malone's interest in investing in News Corp as a significant vote of confidence in the company. The company's American Depositary Receipts rose sharply during trading in New York yesterday.

LVMH and Gucci bid showdown

LVMH and Gucci will meet tomorrow as the two rival luxury goods companies seek a resolution to their £4.9 billion bid battle (Martin Barrow writes).

Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman, is expected to give full details of his offer. Gucci will then consider the bid in the following days, deciding whether or not to recommend it to shareholders.

LVMH had previously not intended to buy the whole company, merely to gain representation on the board. But Gucci forced its hand by sealing a deal with Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, the French retailer, for it to take a 40 per cent stake.

The battle started early this year when LVMH, which numbers Givenchy perfume and Moet & Chandon champagne among its products, built up a 35 per cent stake and asked for a seat in the boardroom.

Budget changes force up cost to employers

Medical cover fear for staff

By Caroline Merrell

EMPLOYERS face a 22 per cent increase in the cost of providing private medical insurance because of changes introduced in the Budget, according to new research.

William M Mercer, the employee benefit consultant, believes that the increased costs will prompt employers to withdraw or curtail private medical insurance offered to employees. Some four million employees are covered by company schemes.

The sharp increase in costs is blamed on rising premium costs and changes in national insurance. In last month's Budget Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, added a percentage point to insurance premium tax (IPT), bringing it to 5 per cent, and changed the rules so that employers now have to pay NI on the benefit for employees. Steve Clements, of William M Mercer, said: "In the first instance, employers' national insurance contributions and the rise in IPT will push up the costs by over 12 per cent."

Mr Clements also believes that the medical inflation, which far outstrips the prevailing inflation rate, will eventually add to the costs for employers.

William Laing, a partner of Laing and Buisson, the specialist healthcare analyst, said employers will be under pressure to pass on costs to employees. He said: "The majority [of employees], around 59 per cent, do not have to pay anything towards their schemes: the rest do."

Mr Clements said employers would have difficulty in simply abandoning schemes as costs rise. "It is one of the most highly valued benefits and many employees make regular use of it," he said. "So it is not easy to say I'm withdrawing it, buy your own cover."

David Bryant, a spokesman for BUPA, the private healthcare firm that reported a fall in profits last week, said: "I do not disagree with the 22 per cent figure, but I say that it is speculative. We have not yet decided what we are going to do with our premiums, but we will be deciding this summer."

